07-17-00

A

PATENT

Docket No. 8115-12394A-PCT US DIV2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
Under 37 CFR § 1.53(b)

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor: Wallace J. Beaudry

WARNING: *37 C.F.R. § 1.41(a)(1) points out:*

'(a) A patent is applied for in the name or names of the actual inventor or inventors.

(1) The inventorship of a nonprovisional application is that inventorship set forth in the oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63, except as provided for in § 1.53(d)(4) and § 1.63(c). If an oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63 is not filed during the pendency of a nonprovisional application, the inventorship is that inventorship set forth in the application papers filed pursuant to § 1. 53(b), unless a petition under this paragraph accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(i) is filed supplying or changing the name or names of the inventor or inventors.

For (title): Nasal Epidermal Lifting Mechanism

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10*
(Express Mail label number is mandatory.)
Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that this New Application Transmittal and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date 14 July 2000, in an envelope as 'Express Mail Post Office to Addressee' mailing Label Number EL 574874733 US, addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Julie A. Wolf
(type or print name of person mailing paper)

Julie A. Wolf
Signature of person mailing paper

WARNING: *Certificate of mailing (first class) or facsimile transmission procedures of 37 C.F.R. 1.8 cannot be used to obtain a date of mailing or transmission for this correspondence.*

WARNING: *Each paper or fee filed by "Express Mail" **must** have the number of the Express Mail mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 CFR 1.10(b).*
"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will not be granted on petition. 'Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

1. Type of Application

This new application is for a(n)

(check one applicable item below)

[ ] Original (nonprovisional)

[ ] Design

[ ] Plant

WARNING: ***Do not*** *use this transmittal for a completion in the U.S. of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4), unless the International Application is being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.*

WARNING: ***Do not*** *use this transmittal for the filing of a provisional application.*

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply then complete and attach ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF A PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED and a NOTIFICATION IN PARENT APPLICATION OF THE FILING OF THIS CONTINUATION APPLICATION.

[X] Divisional.

[ ] Continuation.

[ ] Continuation-in-part (C-I-P).

2. Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) (35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, or 121)

NOTE: A nonprovisional application may claim an invention disclosed in one or more prior filed copending nonprovisional applications or copending international applications designating the United States of America. In order for a nonprovisional application to claim the benefit of a prior filed copending nonprovisional application or copending international application designating the United States of America, each prior application must name as an inventor at least one inventor named in the later filed nonprovisional application and disclose the named inventor's invention claimed in at least one claim of the later filed nonprovisional application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S. C. 112. Each prior application must also be:

(i) An international application entitled to a filing date in accordance with PCT Article 11 and designating the United States of America; or
(ii) Complete as set forth in § 1.51(b); or
(iii) Entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(b) or § 1.53(d) and include the basic filing fee set forth in § 1.16; or
(iv) Entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(b) and have paid therein the processing and retention fee set forth in § 1.21(l) within the time period set forth in § 1.53(f).
37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(1).

NOTE: If the new application being transmitted is a divisional, continuation or a continuation-in-part of a parent case, or where the parent case is an International Application which designated the U.S., or benefit of a prior provisional application is claimed, then check the following item and complete and attach ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

WARNING: If an application claims the benefit of the filing date of an earlier filed application under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the 20-year term of that application will be based upon the filing date of the earliest U.S. application that the application makes reference to under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c). (35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2) does not take into account, for the determination of the patent term, any application on which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119, 365(a) or 365(b).) For a c-i-p application, applicant should review whether any claim in the patent that will issue is supported by an earlier application and, if not, the applicant should consider canceling the reference to the earlier filed application. The term of a patent is not based on a claim-by-claim approach. See Notice of April 14, 1995, 60 Fed. Reg. 20,195, at 20,205.

WARNING: When the last day of pendency of a provisional application falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia, any nonprovisional application claiming benefit of the provisional application must be filed prior to the Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3).

[X] The new application being transmitted claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s). Enclosed are ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

3. Papers Enclosed

A. Required for filing date under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) (Regular) or 37 C.F.R. § 1.153 Design) Application

15	Pages of specification
6	Pages of claims
37	Sheets of drawing
[ ]	formal
[X]	informal

B. Other Papers Enclosed

1	Pages of Abstract

WARNING: DO NOT submit original drawings. A high quality copy of the drawings should be supplied when filing a patent application. The drawings that are submitted to the Office must be on strong, white, smooth, and non-shiny paper and meet the standards according to § 1.84. If corrections to the drawings are necessary, they should be made to the original drawing and a high-quality copy of the corrected original drawing then submitted to the Office. Only one copy is required or desired. For comments on proposed then-new 37 CFR 1.84, see Notice of March 9, 1988 (1990 O.G. 57-62).

NOTE: "Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the application number or the title of the invention, inventor's name, docket number (if any), and the name and telephone number of a person to call if the Office is unable to match the drawings to the proper application. This information should be placed on the back of each sheet of drawing a minimum distance of 1.5 cm. (518 inch) down from the top of the page . . ." 37 C.F.R. 1.84(c)).

(complete the following, if applicable)

[ ] The enclosed drawing(s) are photograph(s), and there is also attached a "PETITION TO ACCEPT PHOTOGRAPH(S) AS DRAWING(S)." 37 C.F.R. 1.84(b).

4. Additional papers enclosed

[X] Preliminary Amendment
[ ] Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. 1.98)
[ ] Form PTO-1449 (PTO/SB/08A and 08B)
[ ] Citations
[ ] Declaration of Biological Deposit
[ ] Submission of "Sequence Listing," computer readable copy and/or amendment pertaining thereto for biotechnology invention containing nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence.
[ ] Authorization of Attorney(s) to Accept and Follow Instructions from Representative
[ ] Special Comments
[ ] Other

5. Declaration or oath

NOTE: A newly executed declaration is not required in a continuation or divisional application provided that the prior nonprovisional application contained a declaration as required, the application being filed is by all or fewer than all the inventors named in the prior application, there is no new matter in the application being filed, and a copy of the executed declaration filed in the prior application (showing the signature or an indication thereon that it was signed is submitted. The copy must be accompanied by a statement requesting deletion of the names of person(s) who are not inventors of the application being filed. If the declaration in the prior application was filed under § 1.47, then a copy of that declaration must be filed accompanied by a copy of the decision granting § 1.47 status or if a nonsigning person under § 1.47 has subsequently joined in a prior application, then a copy of the subsequently executed declaration must be filed. See 37 C.F.R. ff 1.63(cO.

[X] Enclosed
Executed by *(check all applicable boxes)*

[X] inventor(s). (Copy of the Declaration and Oath from the parent case is enclosed)

[ ] legal representative of inventor(s).
37 CFR 1.42 or 1.43.

[ ] joint inventor or person showing a proprietary interest on behalf of inventor who refused to sign or cannot be reached.

[ ]This is the petition required by 37 CFR 1.47 and the statement required by 37 CFR 1.47 is also attached. See Item 13 below for fee.

[ ] Not Enclosed.

NOTE: Where the filing is a completion in the U.S. of an International Application or where the completion of the U.S. application contains subject matter in addition to the International Application, the application may be treated as a continuation or continuation-in-part, as the case may be, utilizing ADDED PAGE FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED.

[ ]Application is made by a person authorized under 37 C.F.R. 1.41(c) on behalf of all the above named inventor(s).
(The declaration or oath, along with the surcharge required by 37 CFR 1. 16(e) can be filed subsequently).

NOTE: It is important that all the correct inventor(s) are named for filing under 37 CFR 1.41(c) and 1.53(b).

[ ] Showing that the filing is authorized.
(not required unless called into question. 37 CFR 1.41(d))

6. Inventorship Statement

WARNING: If the named inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

The inventorship for all the claims in this application are:

[X] The same.

or

[ ] Not the same. An explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made

[ ]is submitted.
[ ]will be submitted.

7. Language

NOTE: An application including a signed oath or declaration may be filed in a language other than English. An English translation of the non-English language application and the processing fee of $130.00 required by 37 CFR 1.17(k) is required to be filed with the application, or within such time as may be set by the Office. 37 CFR 1.52(d).

[X] English
[ ] Non-English
[ ] The attached translation includes a statement that the translation is accurate. 37 C.F.R. 1.52(d).

8. Assignment

[ ] An assignment of the Invention to _____

[ ] is attached. A separate [ ] COVER SHEET FOR ASSIGNMENT (DOCUMENT) ACCOMPANYING NEW PATENT APPLICATION or [ ] FORM PTO 1595 is also attached.
[ ] will follow.

NOTE: "If an assignment is submitted with a new application, send two separate letters - one for the application and one for the assignment" Notice of May 4, 1990 (1114 O.G. 77-78).

WARNING: A newly executed "CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b) must be filed when a continuation-in-part application is filed by an assignee. Notice of April 30, 1993, 11,50 O.G. 62-64.

9. CERTIFIED COPY

Certified copy(ies) of application(s)

Country	Appln. No.	Filed
Country	Appln. No.	Filed
Country	Appln. No.	Filed
Country	Appln. No.	Filed

from which priority is claimed

[ ] is (are) attached.

[ ] will follow.

NOTE: The foreign application forming the basis for the clam for priority must be referred to in the oath or declaration. 37 CFR 1.55(a) and 1.63.

NOTE: This item is for any foreign priority for which the application being filed directly relates. If any parent U.S. application or International Application from which this application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 is itself entitled to priority from a prior foreign application, then complete item 18 on the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

10. Fee Calculation (37 C.F.R. 1.16)

A. [X] Regular application

CLAIMS AS FILED						
	Number Filed	Number Extra			Rate	Basic Fee 37 CFR 1.16(a) $690.00
Total Claims (37 CFR 1.16(c))	29	-20 =	9	x	$ 18.00	$162.00
Independent Claims (37 CFR 1.16(b))	2	-3 =	0	x	$ 78.00	$0
Multiple dependent claim(s) if any (37 CFR 1.16(d))			0	+	$260.00	$0

[ ] Amendment canceling extra claims is enclosed.
[ ] Amendment deleting multiple-dependencies is enclosed.
[ ] Fee for extra claims is not being paid at this time.

NOTE: If the fees for extra claims are not paid on filing they must be paid or the claims cancelled by amendment, prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the Patent and Trademark Office in any notice of fee deficiency. 37 CFR 1. 16(d).

Filing Fee Calculation $852.00

B. [ ] Design application
($330.00 - 37 CFR 1.16(f))
Filing Fee Calculation _____

C. [ ] Plant application
($540.00 - 37 CFR 1.16(g))
Filing Fee Calculation _____

11. Small Entity Statement(s)

[ ] Statement(s) that this is a filing by a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 is (are) attached.

WARNING: "Status as a small entity must be specifically established in each application or patent in which the status is available and desired. Status as a small entity in one application or patent does not affect any other application or patent, including applications or patents which are directly or indirectly dependent upon the application or patent in which the status has been established. The refiling of an application under § 1.53 as a continuation, division, or continuation-in-part (including a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d)), or the filing of a reissue application requires new determination as to continued entitlement to small entity status for the continuing or reissue application. A nonprovisional application claiming benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c) of a prior application, or a reissue application may rely on a statement filed in the prior application or in the patent if the nonprovisional application or the reissue application includes a reference to the statement in the prior application or in the patent or includes a copy of the statement in the prior application or in the patent and status as a small entity is still proper and desired. The payment of the small entity basic statutory filing fee will be treated as such a reference for purposes of this section." 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a)(2).

(complete the following, if applicable)

[X] Status as a small entity was claimed in prior application Serial No. 09/180,572 filed on 17 January 1997, from which benefit is being claimed for this application under 35 U.S.C., 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c) and which status as a small entity is still proper and desired.

[X] A copy of the statement in the prior application Is included.
Filing Fee Calculation (50% of A, B or C above)

$ 426.00

NOTE: Any excess of the full fee paid will be refunded if small entity status is established and a refund request are filed within 2 months of the date of timely payment of a full fee. The two-month period is not extendable under § 1.136, 37 CFR 1.28(a).

12. Request for International-Type Search (37 C.F.R. 1.104(d))

(complete, if applicable)

[ ] Please prepare an international-type search report for this application at the time when national examination on the merits takes place.

13. Fee Payment Being Made at This Time

[ ] Not Enclosed

[ ] No filing fee is to be paid at this time.
(This and the surcharge required by 37 C.F.R. 1. 16(e) can be paid subsequently.)

[X] Enclosed

[X]	Filing fee	$426.00
[ ]	Recording assignment ($40.00; 37 C.F.R. 1.21(h)) (See attached 'COVER SHEET FOR ASSIGNMENT ACCOMPANYING NEW APPLICATION.)	
[ ]	Petition fee for filing by other than all the inventors or person on behalf of the inventor where inventor refused to sign or cannot be reached ($130.00; 37 C.F.R. 1.47 and 1.17(i)	
[ ]	For processing an application with a specification in a non-English language ($130.00; 37 C.F.R. 1.52(d) and 1.17(k))	
[ ]	Processing and retention fee ($130.00; 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d) and 1.21(l))	

[ ]Fee for international-type search report
($40.00; 37 C.F.R. 1.21(e)) _____

NOTE: 37 CFR 1.21(l) establishes a fee for processing and retaining any application that is abandoned for failing to complete the application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(o and this, as well as the changes to 37 CFR 1.53 and 1.78(a)(1), indicate that in order to obtain the benefit of a prior U.S. application, either the basic filing fee must be paid, or the processing and retention fee of § 1.21(l) must be paid, within 1 year from notification under § 53(f).

Total fees enclosed **$426.00**

14. Method of Payment of Fees

[X] Check in the amount of $ 426.00.

[ ] Charge Account No. _____ in the amount of _____.
A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

NOTE: Fees should be itemized in such a manner that it is clear for which purpose the fees are paid. 37 CFR 1.22(b).

15. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

WARNING If no fees are to be paid on filing, the following items should not be completed.
WARNING Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependent claims, to avoid unexpected high charges, if extra claim charges are authorized.

[x] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following additional fees by this paper and during the entire pendency of this application to Account No. 06-2360
[x] 37 C.F.R. 1.16(a), (f) or (g) (filing fees)
[x] 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b), (c) and (d) (presentation of extra claims)

NOTE: Because additional fees for excess or multiple dependent claims not paid on filing or on later presentation must only be paid or these claims cancelled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the PTO in any notice of fee deficiency (37 CFR 1.16(d)), It might be best not to authorize the PTO to charge additional claim fees, except possibly when dealing with amendments after final action.

[x] 37 C.F.R. 1.16(e) (surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application)
[x] 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17(a)(I-5) (extension fees pursuant to § 1.136(a)).
[x] 37 C.F.R. 1.17 (application processing fees)

NOTE: A written request may be submitted in an application that is an authorization to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. An authorization to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees will be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission. Submission of the fee set forth in § 1.17(a) will also be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission. 37 C.F.R. 1. 136(a)(3).

[ ] 37 C.F.R. 1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing of Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b))

NOTE: Where an authorization to charge the issue fee to a deposit account has been filed before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, the issue fee will be automatically charged to the deposit account at the time of mailing the notice of allowance. 37 CFR 1.311(b).

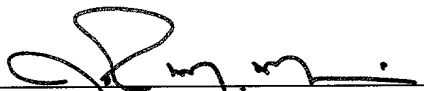
NOTE: 37 CFR 1.28(b) requires "Notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status must be filed in the application..... prior to paying, or at the time of paying, . . . issue fee." From the wording of 37 CFR 1.28(b), (a) notification of change of status must be made even if the fee is paid as "other than a small entity" and (b) no notification is required if the change is to another small entity.

16. Instructions as to Overpayment

NOTE ". . . Amounts of twenty-five dollars or less will not be returned unless specifically requested within a reasonable time, nor will the payer be notified of such amounts; amounts over twenty-five dollars may be returned by check or, if requested, by credit to a deposit account.' 37 C.F.R. § 1.26(a).

[X] Credit Account No. 06-2360

[ ] Refund



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Reg. No. 38,957

John M. Manion
(type or print name of attorney)

Tel. No.: (262) 797-6700

RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.
(P.O. Address)

P.O. Box 26618

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53226-0618

[X] Incorporation by reference of added pages

(check the following item if the application in this transmittal claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s) (including an international application entering the U.S. stage as a continuation, divisional or C-I-P application) and complete and attach the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED)

[X] Plus Added Pages for New Application Transmittal Where Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) Claimed

Number of pages added 4

[ ] Plus Added Pages for Papers Referred to in Item 4 Above

Number of pages added _____

[ ] Plus added pages deleting names of inventor(s) named in prior application(s) who is/are no longer inventor(s) of the subject matter claimed in this application.

Number of pages added _____

[ ] "Assignment Cover Letter Accompanying New Application"

Number of pages added _____

[ ] **Statement Where No Further Pages Added**

(if no further pages form a part of this Transmittal, then end this Transmittal with this page and check the following item)

[ ] This transmittal ends with this page.

ADDED PAGES FOR APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED

NOTE: "In order for an application to claim the benefit of a prior filed copending national application, the prior application must name as an inventor at least one inventor named in the later filed application and disclose the named inventor's invention claimed in at least one claim of the later filed application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112." 37 CFR 1.78(a).

NOTE: "N ADDITION THE PRIOR APPLICATION MUST BE (1) COMPLETE AS SET FORTH IN S 1.51, OR (2) ENTITLED TO A FILING DATE AS SET FORTH IN S 1.53(B) AND INCLUDE THE BASIC FILING FEE SET FORTH IN S 1.16; OR (3) ENTITLED TO A FILING DATE AS SET FORTH IN S 1.53(B) AND HAVE PAID THEREIN THE PROCESSING AND RETENTION FEE SET FORTH IN S 1.21(L) WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH IN S 1.53(D)."37 CFR 1.78(A).

17. Relate Back-35 U.S.C. 120

NOTE: "NY APPLICATION CLAIMING THE BENEFIT OF A PRIOR FILED COPENDING NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN OR BE AMENDED TO CONTAIN IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE SPECIFICATION FOLLOWING THE TITLE A REFERENCE TO SUCH PRIOR APPLICATION IDENTIFYING IT BY SERIAL NUMBER AND FILING DATE OR INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER AND INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE AND INDICATING THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE APPLICATIONS." 37 CFR 1.78(A). SEE ALSO THE NOTICE OF APRIL 28, 1987 (1079 O.G. 32 TO 46).

[x] Amend the Specification by inserting the following information before the first line:

Related Application:
"This is a divisional of co-pending application Serial No. 09/180,572 filed on 17 January 1997."

NOTE: THE PROPER REFERENCE TO A PRIOR FILED PCT APPLICATION WHICH ENTERED THE U.S. NATIONAL PHASE IS THE U.S. SERIAL NUMBER AND THE FILING DATE OF THE PCT APPLICATION WHICH DESIGNATED THE U.S.

NOTE: (1) WHERE THE APPLICATION BEING TRANSMITTED ADDS SUBJECT MATTER TO THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION THEN THE FILING CAN BE AS A CONTINUATION-IN-PART OR (2) IT IS DESIRED TO DO SO FOR OTHER REASONS, E.G. WHERE NO DECLARATION IS AVAILABLE, NO ENGLISH TRANSLATION IS AVAILABLE OR NO FEE IS TO BE PAID ON FILING THEN THE FILING CAN BE AS A CONTINUATION. IN THESE CASES THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION DESIGNATING THE U.S. IS TREATED AS THE PARENT CASE IN THE U.S. AND IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE COMPLETION OF THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371(C)(4) WHICH MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF 37 CFR 1.61(A). THIS ALTERNATIVE PERMITS THE COMPLETION OF THE FILING REQUIREMENTS WITHIN ANY TERM SET BY THE PTO UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(D) TO WHICH THE EXTENSION PROVISIONS OF 37 CFR 1.136(A) APPLY. (WHEREAS, IF THE FILING IS AS AN INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION ENTERING THE U.S. STAGE THEN THE FEE, DECLARATION AND/OR ENGLISH TRANSLATION (WHERE NECESSARY) IS DUE WITHIN 20 MONTHS OF THE PRIORITY DATE BUT CAN BE PAID WITHIN 22 MONTHS OF THE PRIORITY DATE (OR IS DUE WITHIN 30 MONTHS OF THE PRIORITY DATE BUT CAN BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 32 MONTHS OF THE PRIORITY DATE) WITH THE SURCHARGES SET FORTH IN 37 CFR 1.492(E), (F) AND 37 CFR 1.495(C); HOWEVER, THE PROVISIONS OF 37 CFR 1.136 DO NOT APPLY TO THIS 22 OR (32 MONTH) PERIOD. 37 CFR 1.61(B).)

NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR ENTERING THE NATIONAL PHASE IN THE U.S. FOR AN INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION WAS CLARIFIED IN THE NOTICE OF APRIL 28, 1987 (1079 O.G. 32 TO 46) AS FOLLOWS:

"The Patent and Trademark Office considers the International application to be pending until the 22nd month from the priority date if the United States has been designated and no Demand for International Preliminary Examination has been filed prior to the expiration of the 19th month from the priority date and until the 32nd month from the priority date if a Demand for International Preliminary Examination which elected the United States of America has been filed prior to the expiration of the 19th month from the priority date, provided that a copy of the international application has been communicated to the Patent and Trademark Office within the 20 or 30 month period respectively. If a copy of the international application has not been communicated to the Patent and Trademark Office within the 20 or 30 month period respectively, the international application becomes abandoned as to the United States 20 or 30 months from the priority date respectivley. These periods have been placed in the rules as paragraph (h) of S 1.494 and paragraph (i) of S 1.495. A continuing application under 35 U.S.C. 365(c) and 120 may be filed anytime during the pendency of the international application."

18. Relate Back-35 U.S.C. 119 Priority Claim for Prior Application

The prior U.S. application(s), including any prior International Application designating the U.S., identified above in item 17, in turn itself claim(s) foreign priority (ies) as follows:

Country:	Application No.:	Filed on:
PCT	PCT/US97/00868	1/17/97

The certified copy (ies) has (have)

[ ] been filed on _____ in prior application 0 /_____ which was filed on _____.

[ ] is (are) attached

WARNING: THE CERTIFIED COPY OF THE PRIORITY APPLICATION WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE PTO BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU MAY NOT BE RELIED ON WITHOUT ANY NEED TO FILE A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE PRIORITY APPLICATION IN THE CONTINUING APPLICATION. THIS IS SO BECAUSE THE CERTIFIED COPY OF THE PRIORITY APPLICATION COMMUNICATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU IS PLACED IN A FOLDER AND IS NOT ASSIGNED A U.S. SERIAL NUMBER UNLESS THE NATIONAL STAGE IS ENTERED. SUCH FOLDERS ARE DISPOSED OF IF THE NATIONAL STAGE IS NOT ENTERED. THEREFORE SUCH CERTIFIED COPIES MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED LATER IN THE PROSECUTION OF A CONTINUING APPLICATION. AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO PHYSICALLY REMOVE THE PRIORITY DOCUMENTS FROM THE FOLDERS AND TRANSFER THEM TO THE CONTINUING APPLICATION. THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO REQUEST TRANSFER, RETRIEVE THE FOLDERS, MAKE SUITABLE RECORD NOTATIONS, TRANSFER THE CERTIFIED COPIES, ENTER AND MAKE A RECORD OF SUCH COPIES IN THE CONTINUING APPLICATION ARE SUBSTANTIAL. ACCORDINGLY, THE PRIORITY DOCUMENTS IN FOLDERS OF INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE NATIONAL STAGE MAY NOT BE RELIED ON. NOTICE OF APRIL 28, 1987 (1079 O.G. 32 TO 46).

19. Maintenance of Copendency of Prior Application

NOTE: THE PTO FINDS IT USEFUL IF A COPY OF THE PETITION FILED IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION EXTENDING THE TERM FOR RESPONSE IS FILED WITH THE PAPERS CONSTITUTING THE FILING OF THE CONTINUATION APPLICATION. NOTICE OF NOVEMBER 5, 1985 (1060 O.G. 27).

A. [ ] Extension of time in prior application

(This item MUST BE COMPLETED AND THE PAPERS FILED IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION IF THE PERIOD SET IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION HAS RUN)

[ ] A petition, fee and response extends the term in the pending prior application until _____.

[ ] A copy of the petition filed in prior application is attached

B. [ ] Conditional Petition for Extension of Time in Prior Application

(complete this item if previous item not applicable)

[ ] A conditional petition for extension of time is being filed in the pending prior application.

[ ] A copy of the conditional petition filed in the prior application is attached

20. Further Inventorship Statement Where Benefit of Prior Application(s) Claimed

NOTE: IF THE CONTINUATION, CONTINUATION-IN-PART, OR DIVISIONAL APPLICATION IS FILED BY LESS THAN ALL THE INVENTORS NAMED IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION A STATEMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION WHEN FILED REQUESTING DELETION OF THE NAMES OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO ARE NOT INVENTORS OF THE INVENTION BEING CLAIMED IN THE CONTINUATION, CONTINUATION-IN-PART, OR DIVISIONAL APPLICATION. 37 CFR 1.62(A) [EMPHASIS ADDED]. (DEALING WITH THE FILE WRAPPER CONTINUATION SITUATION).

NOTE: IN THE CASE OF A CONTINUATION-IN-PART APPLICATION WHICH ADDS AND CLAIMS ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE BY AMENDMENT, AN OATH OR DECLARATION AS REQUIRED BY S 1.63 MUST BE FILED. IN THOSE SITUATIONS WHERE A NEW OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED DUE TO ADDITIONAL SUBJECT MATTER BEING CLAIMED, ADDITIONAL INVENTORS MAY BE NAMED IN THE CONTINUING APPLICATION. IN A CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPLICATION WHICH DISCLOSES AND CLAIMS ONLY SUBJECT MATTER DISCLOSED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION, NO ADDITIONAL OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED AND THE APPLICATION MUST NAME AS INVENTORS THE SAME OR LESS THAN ALL THE INVENTORS IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION. 37 CFR 1.60(C). (DEALING WITH THE CONTINUATION SITUATION).

(complete applicable item (a), (b) and/or (c) below)

(a) [X] This application discloses and claims only subject matter disclosed in the prior application whose particulars are set out above and the inventor(s) in this application are

[X] the same.
[ ] less than those named in the prior application and it is requested that the following inventor(s) identified for the prior application be deleted:

_____
(type name(s) of inventor(s) to be deleted)

(b) [ ] This application discloses and claims additional disclosure and a new declaration or oath is being filed. With respect to the prior application the inventor(s) in this application are

[ ] the same.
[ ] the following additional inventor(s) have been added

_____
(type name(s) of inventor(s) to be added)

(c) The inventorship for all the claims in this application are

[x] the same.
[ ] not the same, and an explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made

[ ] is submitted.
[ ] will be submitted.

21. Abandonment of Prior Application (if applicable)

[ ] Please abandon the prior application at a time while the prior application is pending or when the petition for extension of time or to revive in that application is granted and when this application is granted a filing date so as to make this application copending with said prior application.

NOTE: ACCORDING TO THE NOTICE OF MAY 13, 1983 (103, TMOG 6-7) THE FILING OF A CONTINUATION OR CONTINUATION-IN-PART APPLICATION IS A PROPER RESPONSE WITH RESPECT TO A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME OR A PETITION TO REVIVE AND SHOULD INCLUDE THE EXPRESS ABANDONMENT OF THE PRIOR APPLICATION CONDITIONED UPON THE GRANTING OF THE PETITION AND THE GRANTING OF A FILING DATE TO THE CONTINUING APPLICATION.

22. Petition for Suspension of Prosecution for the Time Necessary to File an Amendment

WARNING: THE CLAIMS OF A NEW APPLICATION MAY BE FINALLY REJECTED IN THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION IN THOSE SITUATIONS WHERE (1) THE NEW APPLICATION IS A CONTINUING APPLICATION OF, OR A SUBSTITUTE FOR, AN EARLIER APPLICATION, AND (2) ALL THE CLAIMS OF THE NEW APPLICATION (A) ARE DRAWN TO THE SAME INVENTION CLAIMED IN THE EARLIER APPLICATION, AND (B) WOULD HAVE BEEN PROPERLY FINALLY REJECTED ON THE GROUNDS OF ART OF RECORD IN THE NEXT OFFICE ACTION IF THEY HAD BEEN ENTERED IN THE EARLIER APPLICATION." MPEP, S 706.07(B).

NOTE: WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE CLAIMS ON FILE WILL GIVE RISE TO A FIRST ACTION FINAL FOR THIS CONTINUATION APPLICATION AND FOR SOME REASON AN AMENDMENT CANNOT BE FILED PROMPTLY (E.G., EXPERIMENTAL DATA IS BEING GATHERED) IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO FILE A PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF PROSECUTION FOR THE TIME NECESSARY.

(check the next item, if applicable)

[ ] There is provided herewith a Petition To Suspend Prosecution for the Time Necessary to File An Amendment (New Application Filed Concurrently)

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27 (b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

Docket No. 8115-12394A-PCT-US

Serial No.	Filing Date	Patent No.	Issue Date
09/180,572	01/17/97		

Applicant/ Patentee: **Wallace J. Beaudry**

Invention: **Nasal Epidermal Lifting Mechanism**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled above and described in:

- ☐ the specification to be filed herewith.
- ☒ the application identified above.
- ☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ No such person, concern or organization exists.
- ☐ Each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR Wallace J. Beaudry
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR Wallace J Beaudry DATE: 1-7-00

NAME OF INVENTOR ______
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR ______ DATE: ______

NAME OF INVENTOR ______
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR ______ DATE: ______

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SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR ______ DATE: ______

NAME OF INVENTOR ______
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR ______ DATE: ______

NASAL EPIDERMAL LIFTING MECHANISM

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates generally devices that may be used in the healing arts and arts generally related thereto. More specifically, the present invention relates to devices which may be used for a variety of purposes including but not limited to dressings for wounds, bandages, drug delivery systems, epidermal lifting mechanisms, and positioning mechanisms for positioning epidermal layers of skin on humans and/or animals in a predetermined manner. The present invention is thus believed to have application in the medical and veterinary sciences.

Several forms of the present invention relate to epidermal lifting mechanisms and methods for increasing the flow of gases into the human body and more specifically to an epidermal lifting mechanism and method for allowing more oxygen to pass through the nasal cavity thus increasing both the flow of oxygen into the lungs and the flow of air exhaled from the lungs. Consequently, embodiments of the present invention are also related to a group of devices which are sometimes called nasal dilators. The present invention provides a comfortable and effective device for allowing increased gas flow rates through the nasal passages and into the lungs.

Additionally, the present invention is an improvement in the field of bandages and suturing aids in that a person may use the present invention to hold the ends of a wound together or apart for the purposes of suturing or cleaning the wound and/or incision. Further, the device of the present invention may be used to apply medicine or anti-bacterial agents to a wound or incision. Also, some embodiments of the present invention may be used isolate a wound or burn in a sterile environment while allowing access to the wound area for purposes such as irrigating the wound. Further, some embodiments of the present invention may be used to stabilize the wound or burn area so that the skin around the wound or burn does not stretch with the movement of an individual and thus prevents further

damage to the wound during the healing process and allows for more effective healing of the wound or burn.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention has many applications. The present invention may be generally described as a structure for aiding in the following activities: as an epidermal lifting mechanism for providing a lifting force to a predetermined area of the epidermis, such as the area located to either side of the bridge of a persons nose to provide an increased flow rate of gas through (inhaled and exhaled) the nasal passage, e.g., a nasal dilator; a structure for aiding in keeping an incision open; a structure for aiding in keeping a wound open for cleansing; a structure for aiding in keeping the ends or edges of an incision or wound in close, neat, even, alignment by the application of an even pressure across the wound, burn, or incision, so that the area requiring treatment may heal, or be sutured and closed, neatly and thus develop minimal scar tissue; or as an epidermal positioning mechanism as a device for applying medicine to a wound or other desired place on the epidermis of a human or animal.

With respect to the invention's applications as a dressing the invention may be generally described as comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section. Of these three sections, the first section is coupled to the second section and the second section is coupled to the third section. The second section comprising an elastic material with the first section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon. The second section of the invention may include a plurality of openings of a predetermined size and predetermined shape.

It should be noted that the predetermined shape or shapes of the openings may be spatially organized in a predetermined manner respective to each other. This is because in one embodiment of the present invention the second section is located between the first and third sections and is preferably composed of an elastic material. By placing openings in the elastic material at predetermined locations the strength of the elastic material, when the elastic material is stretched, may be varied and the distribution of force across the elastic material may by varied. Also, the openings can be used to provide a visual reference to a user of the amount of

stress being placed upon the second section and whether or not that section has been stretched sufficiently or been stretched too much since the shape of the openings will change in response to the degree to which the elastic material is stretched. Such a visual reference would be useful to medical personnel where, e.g., it is desirable for a predetermined amount of pressure to be applied to a wound.

Further, the second section includes a first margin (if the second section is round then there is structurally just one annular margin near at least a portion of the perimeter of the second section) a second margin. The first section may be integral or coupled to the second section at the first margin; and the third section may be integral or coupled to the second section at the second margin.

Preferably, but not necessarily, the first section and the third section are laminated materials comprising a first layer, a second intermediate layer, and a third layer; with the third layer including the first side coated with adhesive and protected prior to use by a silicone release liner. The second section includes a first margin and a second margin. The first section includes a first channel located between the first layer and the third layer of the first section for receiving the first margin. The second section includes a second channel located between the first layer and the third layer of the second section for receiving the second margin. The second intermediate layer comprising an adhesive material. The first margin and the second margin of the second section respectively including at least one opening and the first margin engaging the second intermediate layer in the first channel and the adhesive material extending through the opening of the first margin; and the second margin engaging the second intermediate layer in the second channel and the adhesive material extending through the opening of the second margin.

The first and third layer of the first section and the first and third layer of the third section preferably being an inelastic material in some embodiments. The inelastic material may be of any suitable material such as a TYVEC brand type of material.

Alternatively, the dressing mechanism may be described as comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section such that the first section is coupled to the second section and the second section is coupled to the third section. The first section and the third section comprising an elastic material and the first

section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon.

Further, the second section includes at least one opening of a predetermined size and the first section and the third section each include at least one opening comprising a predetermined shape. As previously noted the openings of predetermined shape are spatially organized in a predetermined manner respective to each other.

Also, the second section may include at least one margin and the first section and the third section each have a respective margin area. The first section margin is coupled to the second section at a first predetermined portion the margin of the second section. The third section margin being coupled to the second section at a second predetermined portion of the margin of the second section.

Preferably, the second section is a laminated material comprising at least a first layer, a second intermediate layer, and a third layer; the third layer including the first side. The first section and the third section including a first section margin and a third section margin. Both the first section margin and the third section margin being composed of an elastic material. The second section including at least one channel located between the first layer and the third layer of the second section at the second section margin for receiving the margins of the first and third sections. The second intermediate layer comprising an adhesive material. The first section margin and the third section margin respectively including at least one opening and the margins of the first and third sections engaging the second intermediate layer in the channel at the respective first predetermined margin area and second predetermined margin area so that the adhesive material extends through the openings formed in the material which makes up the first and third section margins. The first and third layer of the second section may, in this embodiment, comprises an inelastic material. The inelastic material may be a polyester.

Further, the second section includes at least one opening or at least one generally transparent section to either allow the wound or burn to be exposed to the air to be observed visually. Additionally, the second section could be modified to include a mechanism for irrigating the wound or burn under the bandage so that

the wound or burn could be cleaned or treated without having to remove the dressing. Also, at least one side of the second section could be designed so that it is capable of isolating the wound in a clean environment by creating a solid antiseptic barrier around the wound through the use of a colloid type adhesive or be capable of contacting a wound or burn so that medicine could be applied to the wound or burn directly.

With respect the features of the present invention as an epidermal lifting mechanism, the epidermal lifting mechanism may be generally described as comprising at least one strip of material having a first side and a second side, the strip further including a first end portion and a second end portion. Between the first side and the second side are preferably one or more layers of predetermined materials.

These layers of materials include without limitation, a silicone coated release liner, an adhesive system to adhere the epidermal lifting mechanism to the nose, a top layer of material, and a spring mechanism. Obviously, the release liner is removed prior to placing the epidermal lifting mechanism on the bridge of the nose. The adhesive system, just like the adhesive system for the dressing mechanism, can include a pressure sensitive hypo-allergenic acrylic or a hydrocolloid material but any suitable adhesive system may be used. The top layer of material can be either a non-woven material or a material with some stretch characteristics such as a three mil polyurethane film. The spring mechanism may comprise a polyester film (usually 2 mils to 8 mils in thickness but any suitable thickness range may be used, e.g., 1 - 15 mils would be suitable as an alternative thickness range but any thickness range can be used depending upon the desired use and durability) laminated to a spun bonded polyester material. The spun bonded polyester material may or may not be coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive. The spring mechanism may be a plurality of materials which are laminated together.

Although unitary, the mechanism has the following components: a pair of nose pods and a bridge section. The nose pods include an exposed adhesive surface which is bonded to the skin on the sides of the nose. The bridge section of the device has at least one fulcrum point, located at the bridge of the nose when it is applied to the bridge of a nose, and lies across the bridge of the nose.

However, it should also be noted that the present invention could be applied to simply one side of the nose with the bridge section of the device ending at the top of the bridge of the nose and being adhered thereto. Alternatively, the bridge section could simply be a strip of resilient or elastic material which is connected to the cheek of the wearer at one end by use of an adhesive material and the nose pod being connected to the side of the nasal passage at the other end.

It should be noted that it is preferable for the nose pods to include horseshoe shaped slits or cuts which are made in the top layer of the material through the adhesive layer which, when applied to the nose, allows the spring action to generate a uniform lifting force in a suction cup like manner while at the same time applying a shearing force to the adhesive itself due to the presence of the slit structures, rather than a lifting force thereby creating flexibility from the lift point to the adhesion point. By decreasing the lifting (peel) force on the adhesive, the stability of the bond between the adhesive and the skin is greatly increased and allows more flexibility of the dilator during facial movement. Thus the dilator will stay comfortably in place even during vigorous movement by the wearer; even when used in applications other than a nasal dilator.

A pair of flaps attached adjacent to the bridge section of the epidermal lifting mechanism create another pair of fulcrum points (fulcrum point 2) between the bridge of the nose (fulcrum point 1) and the adhesive material thereby increasing the dilation force of the outer epidermis of the nasal passages. The additional fulcrum points are accomplished by folding of the flaps adjacent to the bridge section underneath the epidermal lifting mechanism allowing the adhesive area of each flap to adhere to the bottom adhesive area of the bridge section of the epidermal lifting mechanism securing it in place. The flaps include perforations for ease of folding.

As discussed above, the pair of flaps create an additional fulcrum point. Further, when folded they provide a cushioned area for the bridge of the nose to cover the adhesive on the underside of the epidermal lifting mechanism so when applied for several hours and then removed discomfort to the skin tissue on the bridge of the nose is eliminated.

When the top and bottom spring laminates are laminated together and the epidermal lifting mechanism is applied to the nose, the bending of the multi-level springing increases the opening force to the nasal passages over a single level spring. Adding a layer of spring material on top of another layer of spring material creates a leaf spring action. Because there is a stretching force introduced into the top layer when bent over a fulcrum point, a stronger spring action is created as compared to a single layer spring of equal of thickness. Furthermore, bending over a fulcrum point or at multiple fulcrum points further improves the spring action.

Additionally, various pod configurations may be used to allow for flexibility of the bottom spring and/or to allow the pods to conform to the irregular surfaces of the nose or epidermal layer to which they are applied.

A key advantage of this mechanism is that anytime a person engages in physical activity that increases his or her heart rate, this mechanism allows for the delivery of more oxygen to the lungs. Further, the mechanism allows for more air to be effectively exhaled and thus both inhalation and exhalation are enhanced so overall breathing efficiency is enhanced.

Alternatively, this invention may be described as a method for increasing the flow rate of gas through the nasal passages, the method comprising the steps of applying the epidermal lifting mechanism by bending the spring material over the bridge of the nose so that the adhesive material of the nose pods comes into positive contact with the sides of the nose and releasing the nose pods thus allowing the springs to mechanically lift the epidermal surface of the nose and increase the size of the nasal passage openings.

Alternatively, the present invention may be structure which may be used as a nasal dilator wherein the nasal dilator comprises two separate pieces each capable of acting independently of the other. Each piece having at least one nose pod and an elastic member or strip attached to that nose pod. The elastic member or strip having a first end and a second end with the nose pods being attached to the first end. The elastic member having a second end attached to an anchor mechanism. The anchor mechanism having a first side and an adhesive material included thereon. The nose pod having the previously described structure for a nose pod. The anchor mechanism being applied to a predetermined area on a persons

cheek a sufficient distance away from the side of the persons nose so that the nose pod, coupled to the elastic member, may be applied to the outside surface or epidermis surrounding the nasal passage of a persons nose and the elastic member retracting between the anchor mechanism and the nose pod causing lifting of the epidermis on the side of the nose and thereby increasing the opening of the nasal passage way.

Accordingly, the present invention may be considered an epidermal positioning mechanism having an elastic material coupled to a first end piece and a second piece. The first and second end pieces each having at least one side including an adhesive material. Preferably, but not necessarily, depending upon the application of the present invention, at least one of the end pieces would be the anchoring structure or mechanism while the other end piece acts as a lifting end piece.

Additionally the present invention need not solely be used as a nasal dilator but, as previously noted, may also be used as an epidermal positioning system for treatments of wounds and incisions by either keeping the wound or incision open for the purpose of medical treatment such as surgical procedures or cleansing of the wound or incision or by positioning the ends of the wound together in close proximity to aid in suturing of a wound or simply to be used as a suture mechanism in and of itself to hold the ends of a wound together or to hold the ends of an incision together.

Further, when the device of the present invention is used over a wound it may also have application as a bandage. For example, the elastic or resilient material will have at least one side positioned over and adjacent the wound or incision area. This side positioned over or adjacent the wound or incision area may have a medicinal material applied thereto. This medicinal material may be, for example, zinc chromate or an alginate like calcium or sodium alginate; each of those materials respectively having anti-bacterial and clot enhancing capabilities. Other medicinal materials or even non-medicinal materials could also be applied using the device of the present invention depending upon the goals and results desired of the particular user.

If the epidermal positioning mechanism of the present invention is used as a bandage it should be noted that a bandage structure could be combined with the

present invention such that the bandage structure would have at least a first end and second end and elastic material would be coupled to the first end and to the second end with an anchoring structure coupled to a portion of the elastic material as well. This would provide at least two anchor points at the ends of the resilient elastic material not coupled to the bandage structure. In this manner one of the anchor structures could be adhered to the skin at a predetermined position and the bandage structure positioned over the wound or incision by stretching the resilient or elastic material and then applying the other anchor structure could be to the skin at another predetermined position. In this manner, the elastic material will contract and this will have the effect of forcing the bandage material into more positive contact with the wound and thereby enhance the effectiveness of the bandaged material. If desired a medicinal compound could be applied to the surface of the bandage material which is adjacent to the surface of the wound or incision.

The anchoring structure in such a use would of course comprise at least two end pieces coupled to the elastic material at predetermined positions and the end pieces would include an adhesive material attached to a side of the anchoring end pieces adjacent to the epidermis or skin to which they are to be attached. The bandage structure could also have a medicinal material applied to it as previously noted with respect to the elastic material.

Additionally, the mechanism of the present invention could be described as epidermal lifting mechanism having anchor/lifting portions, connected via an elastic or stretchable material, and include an adhesive surface. The anchor/lifting portions being such that each portion, depending upon where it is applied, may act as either an anchor portion or a lifting portion. The anchor/lifting portions having a plurality of incisions or cuts of predetermined shape which divide each anchor/lifting portion into a plurality of adhesive areas. This division of the anchor/lifting portion into a plurality of adhesive areas allows the anchor/lifting portion adhesive areas to be divided such that after a first anchor/lifting portion is applied to the desired epidermal location a first predetermined portion of that first anchor/lifting mechanism may be peeled away and leave a second predetermined portion, having a predetermined shape due to the plurality of cuts or incisions, in place on the epidermal location. Subsequently, a second anchor/lifting portion,

connected to the first anchor/lifting portion via the elastic material, may be applied to a second predetermined or desired epidermal location so that the elastic material is stretched a desired amount. The second anchor/lifting portion, if it is substantially similar to the first anchor/lifting portion may be applied to the epidermis so that it may be peeled away and leave a second predetermined portion, having a predetermined shape due to the plurality of cuts or incisions, in place on the epidermal location. Accordingly, the first and second anchor/lifting portions may act as a separate anchor point and lifting point or as separate anchor points or as separate lifting points and the elastic material may simply be used to supply tension between the points or it may be used to apply a material such as a medicine to the epidermis located between the two points or it may be used to supply tension and apply a material between the two points, etc.

Further, the present invention may be described as a method for using a dressing mechanism where the dressing mechanism comprises a first section, a second section, and a third section; the first section being coupled to the second section and the second section being coupled to the third section; the first section and the third section comprising an elastic material; the first section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon. The method consequently comprising: First, applying the first section to a first predetermined location on an epidermis. Second, pulling the third section toward a second predetermined location on the epidermis. Third, applying the third section to the second predetermined location on the epidermis.

Alternatively, the method could be described as a method for using a dressing comprising a plurality of anchor structures, a treatment section, and an elastic material. The elastic material extending from the anchoring structure to the treatment section. The elastic material being coupled to at least one anchoring structure at a first coupling section and to the treatment section at a second coupling section. The method comprising the steps of positioning the treatment section over a first predetermined area of an epidermis; applying at least one anchor structure to a second predetermined area of the epidermis; and applying at one other anchor structure to a third predetermined area of the epidermis.

Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a prior art nasal strip.

Figure 1A is a top plan view of the prior art nasal strip of Figure 1 including the flaps of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of a relaxed multi-level spring.

Figure 3 is a side elevational view of a tensioned multi-leveled spring bent over a fulcrum point.

Figure 4 is a side elevational view of the epidermal lifting mechanism showing its layered components.

Figure 5 is a schematic side elevational view of the epidermal lifting mechanism wherein the arrows depict the sheer force and peeling forces.

Figure 6 is a top plan view of an end portion of the epidermal lifting mechanism.

Figure 7 is a bottom plan view of the epidermal lifting mechanism.

Figure 8 is a side elevational view depicting the primary layers of the epidermal lifting mechanism.

Figure 9 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the epidermal lifting mechanism.

Figure 10 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the epidermal lifting mechanism.

Figure 11 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the epidermal lifting mechanism.

Figure 12 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the epidermal lifting mechanism.

Figure 13 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the epidermal lifting mechanism.

Figure 14 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the epidermal lifting mechanism.

Figure 15 is a side elevational view showing the epidermal lifting mechanism properly positioned on the bridge of the nose.

Figure 16 is a side elevational view showing the epidermal lifting mechanism improperly positioned too high on the bridge of the nose.

Figure 17 is a side elevational view showing the epidermal lifting mechanism improperly positioned too low on the bridge of the nose.

Figure 18 is an exploded view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 19 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention including an elastic strip.

Figure 20 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention showing an embodiment having application for only one side of a persons nose or for raising a predetermined portion of an epidermal layer.

Figure 21 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention showing the elastic member having a first end coupled to a pod and a second end coupled to an anchor mechanism for application to a selected area of a person or animal epidermis. For example, the anchor mechanism could be applied to a persons cheek and the pod applied to the epidermis of a persons nose to enhance opening of the nasal passage.

Figure 22 is a side elevational view illustrating embodiment of Figure 21 with the anchor mechanism applied to a persons cheek and the pod applied to a side of a persons nose.

Figure 23 top plan view which illustrates the embodiment of Figure 21 in use to hold an incision open.

Figure 24 top plan view which illustrates the embodiment of Figure 19 in use to keep an incision closed.

Figure 25 top plan view which illustrates the embodiment Figure 19 in use to keep an incision closed with the ends of the incision kept in proper alignment to add in suturing the incision.

Figure 26 is a side elevational view showing the embodiment of either Figure 21 or Figure 19 being used on persons nose as a nasal dilator to enhance breathing. The embodiment of Figure 19 is believed to be preferable to the embodiment of Figure 21 for this purpose although either could be used.

Figure 27 is a perspective view generally showing a human nose.

Figure 28 is a cross sectional view of the nose in Figure 27 with the nose shown absent any nasal dilator.

Figure 29 is a cross sectional view of the nose in Figure 27 with the nose shown being in a state of relatively little air flow through the nasal passages.

Figure 30 is a cross sectional view of the nose in Figure 27 with a nasal dilator of the present invention applied illustrating an appreciable air flow through the nasal passages.

Figure 31 is a top plan view of another alternative embodiment of the proposed invention.

Figure 32 is a top plan view of an additional proposed embodiment of the present invention shown as the embodiment would be manufactured and illustrating the area that is removed to expose the adhesive and then bent backwards and applied as shown in Figure 33.

Figure 33 is a top plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 32 applied to an epidermal surface and illustrating the shear point, the adhesive, and the elastic or stretchable material.

Figure 34 is a top plan view of an alternative structure to the embodiment illustrated in Figure 19.

Figure 35 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 36 is a top plan view of the embodiment disclosed in Figure 35.

Figure 37 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 38 is a top plan view of the embodiment disclosed in Figure 37.

Figure 39 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 40 is a top plan view of the embodiment disclosed in Figure 39.

Figure 41 is a top plan view another embodiment of the present invention illustrating an embodiment of the present invention by supper-imposing two views of the embodiment; the phantom lines showing the embodiment at rest without the latex sections being stretched and the solid lines illustrating the latex sections being stretched while the center or second section maintains position over the treatment area despite the uneven tension applied to the various anchor sections.

Figure 42 is a top plan view of the embodiment shown in Figure 41 illustrating how the second center section may be positioned and various anchoring sections positioned to adjust the stress or pressure applied at the center section.

Figure 43 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 44 is a top plan view of the embodiment disclosed in Figure 43.

Figure 45 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 46 is a top plan view of the embodiment disclosed in Figure 45.

Figure 47 is a top plan view illustrating how force may be distributed in two directions in a particular embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 48 is a top plan view illustrating how force may be distributed in four directions in a particular embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 49 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 50 is a top plan view of the structure disclosed in Figure 49.

Figure 51 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 52 is a top plan view of the structure disclosed in Figure 51.

Figure 53 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 54 is a top plan view of the an alternative embodiment to the structure disclosed in Figure 53.

Figure 55 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 56 is a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the alternative structure shown in Figure 55.

Figure 57 is a top plan view showing the structure disclosed in Figure 55 applied over the incision of a wound and acting as a guide for suturing the wound.

Figure 58 is a top plan view showing the two of the structures disclosed in Figure 55 being used to hold a wound open.

Figure 59 is a perspective view showing the structure disclosed in Figure 55 being used for guiding an intravenous tube and holding the tube in a predetermined position.

Figure 60 is a top plan view showing the structure disclosed in Figure 55 holding the edges of a wound or incision together.

Figure 61 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 62 is a top plan view of the structure disclosed in Figure 61.

Figure 63 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 64 is a top plan view of the structure disclosed in Figure 63.

Figure 65 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 66 is a top plan view of the structure disclosed in Figure 65.

Figure 67 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 68 is a view from line 68—68 of Figure 69.

Figure 69 is a top plan view of the structure disclosed in Figure 67.

Figure 70 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 71 is a top plan view of the structure disclosed in Figure 70.

Figure 72 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 73 is a top plan view of the structure disclosed in Figure 74.

Figure 74 is a top plan view of another alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 75 is a perspective view of an another alternative structure of the present invention.

Figure 76 is a top plan view of the structure disclosed in Figure 75.

Figure 77 is a cross-sectional view from line 77--77 of Figure 84.

Figure 78 is a cross-sectional view from line 78—78 of Figure 86.

Figure 79 is a cross-sectional view from line 79—79 of Figure 86.

Figure 80 is a cross-sectional view of a structure similar to the structure disclosed in Figure 86 illustrating the use of input and output ports which may be used to irrigate a wound or deliver medicine to a predetermined area.

Figure 81 is a view taken from line 81—81 of Figure 39.

Figure 82 is a view taken from line 82—82 of Figure 40

Figure 83 is a top plan view of another alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 84 is a perspective view of the alternative structure of the present invention disclosed in Figure 83.

Figure 85 is a top plan view of another alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 86 is a perspective view of the alternative structure of the present invention disclosed in Figure 85.

Figure 87 is a top plan view of another alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 88 is a top plan view of another alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 89 is an illustration showing how the embodiment disclosed in Figure 70 may be used on an area of the human body that is subject to a high degree of movement.

Figure 90 is an illustration showing how another alternative embodiment of the present invention may be used on an area of the human body that is subject to a high degree of movement.

Figure 91 illustrates how another alternative embodiment of the present invention may be used as a nasal dilator.

Figure 92 illustrates another method by which the alternative embodiment of the present invention shown in Figure 91 may be used as a nasal dilator.

Figure 93 illustrates how the embodiment shown in Figure 91 may be used to hold a flap of skin, in this case a human ear flap, in a predetermined position. This is useful where its is desired to have easy access to an area that might otherwise be blocked by a fold or flap of skin thus making work on that area difficult or cumbersome.

Detailed Description

Although the disclosure hereof is detailed and exact to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, the physical embodiments herein disclosed merely exemplify the invention which may be embodied in other specific structure. While the preferred embodiment has been described, the details may be changed without departing from the invention, which is defined by the claims.

The invention comprises an epidermal lifting mechanism for providing a lifting force to a predetermined epidermal area, such as the bridge of the nose, to provide an increased flow rate of gas through the nasal passage and will be referred to generally as 10 in the following detailed description.

Referring to Figures 1 and 1A, a prior art device is shown. The prior art device shown in Figure 1 is currently marketed by CNS, Inc. of Chanhassen, Minnesota and sold under the trademark BREATHE RIGHT. The same device is shown in Figure 1A, however the device in Figure 1A includes the flaps of the present invention whose structure and advantages are discussed in detail below.

The present invention 10 includes a two part multi-level leaf spring 20 as shown in Figure 2. The two part multi-level leaf spring 20 comprises a pair of spring laminates 22 and 24. Each spring laminate 22 and 24 is manufactured from a 2 mil to 8 mil polyester film laminated to a spun bonded polyester material. The spun bonded polyester material may or may not be coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive. The spring laminates 22 and 24 are laminated together.

As illustrated in Figure 3, when the top 24 and bottom 22 spring laminates are laminated together and the invention 10 is applied to the bridge of the nose, represented by the fulcrum point 26, the bending of the multi-level spring 20 increases the opening force to the nasal passages over a single level spring.

Adding a layer of spring material 24 on top of another layer 22 of spring material creates a leaf spring action. Because there is a stretching force introduced into the top layer 24 when bent over a fulcrum point, a stronger (compound) spring action is created as compared to a single layer spring of equal thickness. Furthermore, bending over a fulcrum point creates a stronger yet spring action.

Now referring to Figure 4, the material layers of the invention 10 include a silicone coated release liner 30, an adhesive system 40 to adhere the epidermal

lifting mechanism 10 to the nose, a top layer of material 50, and the two part spring laminate 20. The top layer 50 is composed of two layers of material 50A and 50B and contains the springs 24 and 22 there between as shown in Figure 18. The release liner 30 is removed prior to placing the mechanism 10 on the bridge of the nose. The adhesive system 40 can either be a pressure sensitive hypo-allergenic acrylic or a hydrocolloid system. The top layer of material 50 can be either a non-woven material or a material with some stretch characteristics such as a 3 mil polyurethane film.

The preferred embodiment of the invention 10 is shown in Figure 7. Although unitary in construction, it has the following components: a pair of pods 60 and a bridge section 70. The pods 60 include an exposed adhesive surface 62 which is bonded to the skin on the sides of the nose. The pod 60 configurations allow for flexibility of the bottom spring 22 to conform to the irregular surfaces of the nose. The bridge section 70 of the device has at least one fulcrum point as shown in Figure 3 and lies across the bridge of the nose as shown in Figure 15.

As shown in Figure 6, the pods 60 include horseshoe shaped cuts 64 in the top layer of material 50 through the adhesive layer 40 which, when applied to the nose, allows the spring action to generate a uniform lifting force in a suction cuplike manner while at the same time applies a shearing force to the adhesive itself rather than a peeling force thereby creating flexibility from the lift point to the adhesion point. This principle is demonstrated in Figure 5. By decreasing the peel force 42 on the adhesive 40 the bond between the adhesive 40 and the skin is greatly increased and allows more flexibility of the epidermal lifting mechanism 10 during facial movement. The shearing forces are shown at 44.

Referring back to Figure 7, the present invention 10 may be further improved by including a pair of flaps 80 which are attached adjacent to the bridge section 70 of the invention 10. The flaps 80, when folded underneath or over the adhesive layer 40 of the bridge section 70, create another pair of fulcrum points along lines 82 between the bridge of the nose (fulcrum point 2) and the pods 60 when the invention 10 is applied to the wearer's nose. Thus, the flaps 80, when folded, function to increase the dilation force to the outer epidermis of the nasal passages.

More specifically, the additional fulcrum points 82 are accomplished by folding the flaps 80 underneath the bridge section 70 thereby allowing the adhesive area of each flap 84 to adhere to the bottom of the bridge section 70 thus securing it in place. The flaps 80 further include perforations 86 for ease of folding.

As discussed above, the pair of flaps 80 add fulcrum points. Accordingly, when the flaps 80 are folded they form end sections along lines 82 which will be located to either side of the bridge of the nose. Each of the end sections along lines 82 will act as a fulcrum point in addition to the bridge of the nose thereby increasing the number of fulcrum points and the mechanical lifting ability of the present invention. Further, when folded they provide a cushioned area for the bridge of the nose and cover the adhesive 40 on the underside of the bridge section 70 so when applied for several hours and then removed, discomfort to the skin tissue on the bridge of the nose is greatly reduced or eliminated since no adhesive has been in contact with the bridge of the nose due to the barrier created by the flaps.

The material layers of the invention 10 are shown in Figure 8. Again, the layers include a silicone coated release liner 30, an adhesive system 40 to adhere the epidermal lifting mechanism 10 to the nose, a first spring laminate 22, a second spring laminate 24, and a top layer of material 50.

Alternative embodiments of the invention 10 are shown in Figures 9 through 14. In Figure 9, the shape of the pods 60 are shown to be rectangular instead of round. In Figure 10, the horseshoe shaped cuts 64 have been removed and additional slits 66 and 66A have been added. In this embodiment, when the flaps 80 are not folded over, slits 66A mechanically adjust the peeling action to a shear action thereby allowing greater adhesion over the predetermined epidermal area. Additionally, in this embodiment a cut could be made along line 100 to divide the invention 10 into sections 13 and 15 whereby section 13 could be discarded and section 15 could be used as a dilator for only one side of a persons nose. Additionally, two section 15's could be combined to apply to either side of a persons nose and thereby dilate each nasal passage independent of the other. Additionally, this embodiment includes springs 24 and 22 which are of different lengths as shown in the Figures 3 and 18. The ends of springs, shown by lines 83 and 83A, provide

the main lifting force as the springs 24 and 22 attempt to spring back into position. Therefore, due to the mechanical relationship of springs 24 and 22 compound the lifting force applied at their ends 83 and 83A.

The embodiment shown in Figure 11 includes slits 66 and further includes a two-part pod 60. Pod 60 comprises an upper pod half 68 and a lower pod half 69. Pod halves 68 and 69 and slits 66 allow for greater flexibility of the pod 60 on the nose of the wearer.

The embodiment shown in Figure 12 is similar to that shown in Figure 10 with the exception that the bridge section 70 has been widened. The embodiment of Figure 13 includes the wider bridge section 70 in combination with rectangular pods 60. Additional slits 67 have also been added near the outer sides of the pods 60. Slits 67 change the direction of the force applied to the pods 60 so that instead of a peel force (a force which tends to peel away the pods 60 from the epidermis to which they are applied) to a sheer forces (a force which tends to drag the pods 60 across the epidermis to which they are applied).

The embodiment depicted in Figure 14 demonstrates the principal that different pod 60 configurations can be used on the same epidermal lifting mechanism 10. The pod 60 shown on the left side has a sloping side to allow for better adhesion to the side of the nose.

The application of the invention 10 to the nose of the wearer is shown in Figures 15 through 17. Preferred installation of the epidermal lifting mechanism 10 on the bridge of the nose is shown in Figure 15 while in Figure 16, the epidermal lifting mechanism 10 is applied too high on the nose and is applied too low in Figure 17. However, while the positions shown in Figures 16 and 17 are not preferred they are functional since the structure of the present invention 10 allows a user the ability to apply the invention 10 over a relatively large epidermal area and thus effectiveness of the present invention is greatly enhanced. The present invention will generally work effectively in all the positions shown in Figures 15-17.

Alternatively, this invention 10 may be described as a method for increasing the flow rate of gas through the nasal passages, the method comprising the steps of removing the release liner 30, and positioning the invention 10 as shown in Figure 15 or as shown in Figures 16 and 17, depending upon the comfort of the wearer.

Referring now to Figure 19, a top plan view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention 10 may be seen to comprise an elastic midsection 110 having ends 111 and 112. Ends 111 and 112 are coupled to pod sections 60. This embodiment does not include any spring mechanism other than the elastic section 110; The elastic section 110 taking the place of the spring mechanism. The resiliency of the elastic section 110 will cause the two nasal pods 60 to be drawn together when the elastic member contracts. If this is done over a fulcrum point such as the bridge of the nose it will cause a lifting of the nasal passages and thus may be used as a nasal dilator as illustrated in Figure 26.

Additionally the mechanism of Figure 19 may be used as shown in Figures 24 and 25 to aid in holding a wound or incision 17 closed either for the purposes of healing as illustrated in Figure 24 or for the purpose of aiding in suturing as illustrated in Figure 25. The pods 60 adhering to the epidermis to either side of the wound and the elastic member 110 being stretched across the wound so that it will contract and draw the two pods 60 towards each other thereby closing the wound in an effective manner. Additionally, when the wound is closed in this manner a surgeon or physician may have both hands free to apply sutures 115 along the wound or incision 17. This is believed particularly helpful when dealing with a large wound or incision.

With respect to the embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 19 it should be noted that U shaped incisions 64 are also illustrated. Again, these incisions may be of any shape although the U shape is preferred however the embodiment disclosed in Figure 19 could function without these U shaped cuts or incisions 64.

Referring now to Figure 20 an alternative embodiment of the present invention for use as a nasal dilator is shown. In this embodiment the spring sections are included as shown in Figure 18 although they are not shown in Figure 20. This embodiment functions in a manner similar to the embodiment Figure 10 and is simply meant to illustrate once again that the nasal dilator of the present invention could be applied to only one side of a persons nose 19.

Referring now to Figure 21 another alternative embodiment of the present invention is shown in a top plan view illustrating the elastic member 110 coupled at its end 112 to pod 60 and coupled at its end 111 to an anchor 120. The anchor 120

has an adhesive layer applied to it in the same manner as the adhesive layer which is applied to the pod 60. The embodiment of the invention 10 shown in Figure 21 has application for maintaining an incision opening or wound opening for either a surgical procedure or cleansing purposes as illustrated in Figure 23 or for use as a nasal dilator for application to only side of a persons nose as illustrated in Figure 22.

Referring to Figure 22 pod 60 may be seen applied to the side of a persons nose 19 and elastic member 110 is stretched so that anchor 120 may be applied to the side of persons face 19A. Thus, elastic member 110 will contract and pull pod 60 and anchor 120 toward one another but since anchor 120 is positioned on a substantially stationary epidermal area of the persons face the majority of the movement will occur at pod 60 causing the epidermal area to which it is applied to be pulled outward and thus open the nasal passage.

Referring to Figure 23, the incision 17 may be seen to be held open by the action of the embodiment disclosed in Figure 21. The anchors 120 are applied to a substantially stationary epidermal area and the elastic members 110 are stretched and the pods 60 are positioned to either side of the wound or incision to hold it open so that the wound may be cleansed or a surgical procedure may be performed through the incision thus freeing the physician's hands for this purpose.

It should be noted that the U shaped cuts 64 are disclosed in the embodiment of the present invention 10 shown in Figure 21. While these U shaped cuts are preferred they are not considered necessary to practice the present invention.

Referring now to Figures 28, 29 and 30; Figure 28 shows the nose 19 and the nasal passages 119 in cross sectional view. The nasal passages in Figure 28 being shown open but absent the use of any nasal dilator. In Figure 29 the same cross sectional view is shown but the nose 19 and in particular the nasal passages 119 are shown being in a state of relatively little airflow through the nasal passages 119. Figure 30 illustrates a cross sectional view using a nasal dilator of the present invention 10 wherein the nasal passages 119 of the nose 19 are held substantially open for airflow through the nasal passages 119.

Clearly, the alternative embodiments shown in Figures 19 and 21 could also be practiced according to the methods previously disclosed. Specifically, the

embodiment of Figure 19 could be practiced as a method using the structure previously described wherein the embodiment disclosed in Figure 19 is applied by first applying one nose pod section 60 to one side of a wound 17 and stretching the elastic member 110 over the wound 17 and then applying the nose pod section 60 to the other side or opposite side of the wound or incision 17 whereby the wound or incision 17 is held closed. Additionally, it should be noted that a medicinal material could be applied to the elastic member 110 over the portion of its surface which would be adjacent to the wound or incision 17 and thus aid in healing of the wound. Medicinal materials such as zinc chromate or calcium alginate or sodium alginate are possible such compounds.

Alternatively, the embodiment of Figure 21 could be used in a method wherein the pod 60 is applied to an epidermal area which is desired to be pulled or raised. This epidermal area could be an area immediately adjacent an incision or wound 17 or the side epidermis of a persons nose 19. The elastic member 110 being stretched and the anchor portion 120 being applied with its adhesive side to an epidermal area which is relatively stationary and the elastic material 110 contracting and thereby raising or pulling or lifting the skin to which the pod 60 has been attached to via its adhesive side.

Alternatively, as illustrated in Figures 31, 32, and 33, the mechanism of the present invention could be described as epidermal lifting mechanism having anchor/lifting portions 120 , connected via an elastic or stretchable material 110, and include an adhesive surface 121. The anchor/lifting portions 120 being such that each portion 120, depending upon where it is applied, may act as either an anchor portion 120 or a lifting portion 120. The anchor/lifting portions 120 having a plurality of incisions or cuts 64 of predetermined shape (e.g., U shaped as illustrated in Figures 31-33) which divide each anchor/lifting portion 120 into a plurality of adhesive areas 121a and 121b. This division of the anchor/lifting portion 120 into a plurality of adhesive areas 121 allows the anchor/lifting portion adhesive areas 121 to be divided such that after a first anchor/lifting portion 123 is applied to the desired epidermal location a first predetermined portion 121c of that first anchor/lifting portion 120 may be peeled away and leave a second predetermined portion 121d, having a predetermined shape due to the plurality of

cuts or incisions 64, in place on the epidermal location. Subsequently, a second anchor/lifting portion 125, connected to the first anchor/lifting portion 123 via the elastic material 110, may be applied to a second predetermined or desired epidermal location so that the elastic material 110 is stretched a desired amount. The second anchor/lifting portion 125, if it is substantially similar to the first anchor/lifting portion 123 may be applied to the epidermis so that it may be peeled away and leave a second predetermined portion 121d, having a predetermined shape due to the plurality of cuts or incisions64 , in place on the epidermal location. Accordingly, the first and second anchor/lifting portions 123 and 125 may act as a separate anchor point and lifting point or as separate anchor points or as separate lifting points and the elastic material 110 may simply be used to supply tension between the points 123 and 125 or it may be used to apply a material such as a medicine to the epidermis located between the two points or it may be used to supply tension and apply a material between the two points, etc. The purpose of this alternative embodiment to take advantage of the multiple shear points 200 created using this design to enhance the adhesion of this embodiment to the desired epidermal location so that the anchor/lifting portions 120 maintain proper adhesion at their desired locations.

Referring now to Figures 35 and 36 another alternative embodiment of the present invention may be observed. The dressing structure 300 is comprised of a multiple layer or laminated material 302 at its anchor sections 301 and 303 and a latex rubber 321 at its second central section 325. The laminated material includes a top surface 315 made of TYVEC brand material and a bottom surface 319 also made of the same material but coated with a hypo-allergenic acrylic adhesive 327 and covered with a silicone release liner. The anchor sections 301 and 303 have and adhesive bottom layer 311 for adhering to an epidermis 11. The laminated material 302 has a channel or slit 313 into which margins 317 of the latex rubber 321 are engaged. The margins 317 include openings 304 and the channel 313 includes the adhesive 327 which extends through the openings 304 from the bottom 319 to the top 315. This creates a series of adhesive openings 304 which act as plugs which extend through the openings 304 and couple the upper layer 315 to the lower layer 319 effectively holding the non-elastic TYVEC material together so that the latex

material 321 is effectively locked into the channel 313 and cannot easily be removed by tension when stretched. Accordingly, margins 317 are secured to the anchor sections 301 and 303 by at locking section 317a.

Still referring to Figure 35 and Figure 36 the center section 325 may be observed to include a TYVEC brand material stabilizing section 323 which is bonded to a gauze pad 314 via openings 316, in the latex 321 which contain adhesive 327. The adhesive 327 extending in a plug like manner from the pad 314 to the stabilizing section 323. This creates a bandage or dressing structure which is suspended by the latex 321 between the anchoring sections 301 and 303. Further, as illustrated by Figures 51 and 52 the shape of the TYVEC top layer 323 need not be rectangular but can be of any design, e.g., round. When this embodiment is applied over a wound or other predetermined area of the epidermis 11 the latex material 321 is stretched between the two anchoring sections 301 and 303 which causes the latex 321 to act much like a leaf spring and apply a positive pressure downward through the pad 314. Accordingly, the wound to which this device 300 is applied will have a positive pressure against it. It is well known in first aid that pressure applied to a wound will help reduce bleeding. The present invention thus provides an effective bandage which will also effectively limit bleeding from the wound. Further, the positive down pressure will effectively maintain contact of the pad 314 with the wound or other predetermined area despite movement of the surrounding epidermis 11.

Still referring to Figures 35 and 36 it should be noted that stability strips 310 are included to illustrate that it is presently believed that in commercial utilization of the present invention that it is believed to be desirable to provide material to keep the dressing structure 300 relatively rigid prior to use. The strips 310 are removed prior to use by tearing the material 302 along the perforations 308. The strips 310 are separated from the latex 321 by gap 318. Also, shown in Figure 36 is curve 320 which is believed to provide strain relief when the present dressing structure 300 is applied so that even pressure is exerted across the latex 321.

The openings 312, also shown in Figures 37 and 38, should also be noted. The openings 312 are located in a tension adjustment section 412 of the latex 321. Depending upon the number of openings 312 or whether they are present at all the

tension applied to the latex section 321. Further, as the tension adjustment section 412 of the latex 321 is stretched to apply the dressing structure 300 the openings 312 will become distorted. The greater the stretching the greater the tension applied to the latex section 321. Consequently, a person applying the dressing structure disclosed herein may visually see the amount of tension applied to the latex section 321. This allows a person applying a dressing 300 or series of dressings 300 to apply the dressings 300 in a manner so that the pressure and exerted by the stretching of the latex 321 is kept relatively constant. Alternatively, it allows the user to apply dressings 300 which will apply a variety of pressures across the desired treatment area.

Referring to Figures 37 and 38 an alternative embodiment from that shown in Figures 35 and 36 may be seen wherein the pad 314 and inelastic material 323 are not incorporated so that only an elastic section 322 remains.

Referring to Figures 41 and 42, and Figures 45 and 46, another alternative embodiment to the present invention is illustrated. This embodiment is substantially the same structurally as the embodiments disclosed in Figures 35 and 36 with the exception that two additional anchors sections 305 and 307 have been added. Also, the stabilizing section 323 is round rather than rectangular in shape. The pad 314 is coupled to the stabilizing section as previously described. Figures 40 and 41 illustrate that tension adjustment sections 412 need not all apply the same level of tension or be stretched equally. Further, the anchor sections 301,303, 305, and 307 may be moved relative to each other while the center section 325 is maintained in position over the desired treatment area. Accordingly, when the present invention is applied over an area of the body that is subject to movement such as an elbow, knee, or hand the center section 325 will maintain its position over the wound or area to which it is desired to apply treatment.

Referring to Figures 39 and 40 another alternative embodiment may be observed. In this alternative the openings 312 have been eliminated to illustrate that they are optional and not necessary structures to practice the present invention.

Additionally, the stabilizing section disclosed in Figure 40 may be seen in Figure 82 to be composed of a top layer 323 of TYVEC brand material, a layer of

adhesive 327, a layer of latex 321 having openings 304, and a pad 314 to which an ointment 390has been applied. The pad 314 being coupled to the material 323 via the adhesive 327 which extends through the openings 304 in the latex 321.

The stabilizing section disclosed in Figure 39 may be seen in Figure 81 to be composed of a top layer 323 of TYVEC brand material, a layer of adhesive 327, a layer of latex 321 having openings 304, and a pad 314. The pad 314 being coupled to the material 323 via the adhesive 327 which extends through the openings 304 in the latex 321.

Referring to Figures 43 and 44 another alternative embodiment of the present invention may be seen. In this embodiment four anchor sections are again shown coupled via respective locking sections 317a. In this embodiment just a latex material 321 extends between the anchor sections 301,303,305, and 307. A curvature 330 is provided in the latex material 321 to allow for uniform stretching of the material. Also, a perforation 308 is provided to connect the anchor sections 303,305,307 and 301 to each other prior to use of the dressing 300. The perforations are broken when it is desired to use this embodiment of the dressing 300.

Referring to Figures 47 and 48 it is again illustrated that the latex section 321 of the dressing 300 may be stretched or extended in a plurality of directions. This allows for versatility of use on a variety of surfaces.

Referring to Figures 49 and 50 another alternative embodiment of the present invention is disclosed showing that the openings 312 may be deleted from the tensioning section 312a if desired without detracting from the principles of the invention disclosed herein.

Referring to Figure 53 a very simple version of the present invention is illustrated. In this embodiment the dressing 300 is composed of a piece of latex 321 having two ends to which anchors 301 and 303 are respectively attached using an adhesive. The ends of the latex 321 are simply sandwiched between the layers 315 and 319. A piece of stiffening material 323 is glued across the mid-section of the latex 321 and pad 314 is glued to the underside of the latex 321 as illustrated. The bottom side of each respective anchor section 301 and 303 having an adhesive 327 applied thereto.

Referring to Figure 54 illustrates the embodiment of Figure 53 with the addition of a series of openings 383 being applied to the entire dressing 300. Depending upon the material through which the opening 383 is made the function of the opening will vary. Openings 312 in the latex 321 will act to vary the elasticity of the latex. Openings 383a will create stress points and help maintain the dressing 300 in a straight alignment between its anchors 301 and 303. Openings 383b will allow air access to the treatment area.

Referring now to Figures 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60 another embodiment of the dressing 300, similar to the embodiment disclosed in Figures 37 and 38 is disclosed. In this embodiment the entire latex section 321 is essentially comprised of tensioning section 412 having openings 312. The anchors 301 and 303 function as previously described. The latex 321 in Figure 55 is held in place as described in Figure 53 while the latex 321 in Figure 56 is held in place as described in reference to Figures 35 and 36 by adhesive 327 extending through openings 304. Figures 57 - 60 illustrate that this embodiment may be placed over an incision 17 to act as a guided for applying stitches 17a, see Figure 57, or embodiments may be placed to either side of an incision 17 to hold the incision open, see Figure 58, or the openings 312 may be used to hold an intravenous tube 307 in place, see Figure 59, or the dressing 300 simply be used to hold an incision 17 closed without resorting to the application of stitches 17a, see Figure 60.

Referring to Figures 61through 66 and Figures 70 through 76 a variety of alternative designs of the dressing 300 may be seen. All the dressings 300 disclosed operate on the same principles previously disclosed but they are shown to illustrate that shape of the latex 321 and the openings 312 may varied without departing from the invention described herein. Also, illustrated is the fact that the pad 314 and the material 323 may vary in size and shape. Further, the radius or arcuate section 330 may be varied in shape to provide for uniform distribution of tension across the latex 321.

Referring to Figures 67 through 69 another embodiment of the present invention may be seen wherein the latex 321 includes a ring section 347 of material 323. Coupled to the ring section 347 is the latex 321 and a clear urethane material 345 of the type commonly suitable for medical applications; alternative materials

may be used such as any suitable breathable material depending upon the application desired. As illustrated by Figure 68 the ring section 347 is comprised of a layer of TYVEC brand material 323, a layer of adhesive 327, a layer of latex 321 having openings 316 which function in the same manner as openings 304, another layer of adhesive 327, another layer of TYVEC brand material 323, the clear material 345, and a colloid adhesive 349. This structure creates a stable space 351 over the desired area and the colloid 349 isolates the area and prevents stretching of the epidermis 11 under the space 351 so that the wound or other desired area is kept in an isolated environment which may be observed through the material 345. The colloid 349 and the material 345 isolating the wound from external sources of infection.

Referring to Figures 85 and 86 another alternative design of the present invention may be observed. In this embodiment the center section is a breathable membrane 372 of a type commonly used for dressing applications. Perforations 308 allow the dressing to be broken apart to form a plurality of anchor sections 301. Openings 373 are provided in the member 372 to prevent tearing of the membrane 372. A locking section 317a, previously described, is provided. Referring to Figures 78 and 79 the cross-sectional construction may be seen to include at top layer of material 323, a layer of adhesive 327, latex 321 including openings 304, adhesive 327, material 323, adhesive 327, the breathable membrane 372, and a colloid adhesive 349. The dressing 300 capable of covering a desired area of an epidermis 11 and substantially isolating that area from external contamination.

Referring now to Figures 83, 84, and 77 the same structures as shown in Figures 85 and 86, 78 and 79 are shown with the exception that the breathable membrane 372 has been eliminated so that there is only an opening 370. This dressing 300 is believed to have application where it is desired that the wounded or burnt area of the epidermis be exposed to air. Since the spring action of the latex 321 will press down on the epidermal area surround the wound or burn within the opening 370 this is believed to cause the wound or burn to well up and thus receive maximum exposure.

Referring now to Figure 80 another alternative embodiment similar to the structure disclosed in Figure 78 with the exception that the breathable membrane

372 has been replaced with an sealed membrane 399 such as a urethane commonly used to hold IV type fluids. Extending through this membrane 399 is an input port and an output port. This dressing 300 could be used to seal a wound from external contamination but allow the wound to be irrigated or medicine applied or tissue samples taken.

Referring now to Figures 87 and 88 another embodiment is illustrated showing a resealable closure 380. The closure or zipper 380 may bisect the dressing or extend only partially across the dressing 300. The closure 380 is provided to allow access to the wound or burn or other area without having to remove and reapply the bandage.

Referring now to Figures 89-93 various applications of the dressings 300 described herein may be seen to be illustrated in use on a human being.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Furthermore, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described. While the preferred embodiment has been described, the details may be changed without departing from the invention, which is defined by the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An epidermal lifting mechanism for use and application to a nose of human being, the epidermal lifting mechanism providing a lifting force over a predetermined area comprises the epidermal area located to either side of a bridge of a persons nose, the epidermal lifting mechanism comprising:

at least one strip of flexible material having a first side and a second side, the strip further including a first end portion and a second end portion and a middle portion;

the first side of the strip material including an adhesive material;

the first side and the second end being positioned to cover a predetermined portion of the epidermis located adjacent each side of the bridge of the nose;

the strip of material including a plurality of resilient spring structures extending therethrough;

the middle portion including a first edge and a second edge;

the first edge and the second edge of the middle portion including a flap mechanism integral thereto;

whereby the flap mechanism is capable of being folded over the first side of the strip material to cover the middle portion of the first side of the strip material.

2. The epidermal lifting mechanism of claim 1 wherein the adhesive material is a hydrocolloid non-irritating adhesive.

3. The epidermal lifting mechanism of claim 1 wherein the mechanism of claim 1 is used in combination with the bridge of human nose;

the bridge of human nose comprising a fulcrum point.

4. The epidermal lifting mechanism of claim 1 wherein the first end and the second end have a plurality of slits extending through at least the first side of the strip material.

5. The epidermal lifting mechanism of claim 4 wherein the slits have a U shape.

6. The epidermal lifting mechanism of claim 1 wherein the plurality of springs comprise a stack spring mechanism composed of at least two leaf spring structures stacked one on top of the other.

7. The epidermal lifting mechanism of claim 1 wherein the flap structures are folded over the first side and a fulcrum point is produced.

8. The epidermal lifting mechanism of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second end portions of the strip have a predetermined shape.

9. The epidermal lifting mechanism of claim 8 wherein the shape of at least one of the first and second end portions is substantially triangular.

10. An epidermal lifting mechanism for use with an application to a predetermined epidermal surface, the epidermal lifting mechanism comprising:

a strip of material having a first end portion of a predetermined shape, a second end portion of a predetermined shape, and middle portion coupling the first end portion to the second end portion;

the first end portion and the second end portion each having a side including an adhesive material;

at least one the side of the first end portion and the second end portion further including a plurality of slit structures extending therethrough;

the side including a perimeter edge structure;

the slit structures being located substantially within a predetermined portion of the perimeter edge structure.

11. A method for improving air flow into and out of a human body through the nasal passages of a human nose using an epidermal lifting mechanism for providing a lifting force over a predetermined area of the epidermis located to either side of the bridge of the nose, the epidermal lifting system comprising:

at least one strip of flexible material having a first side and second side the strip further including a first end portion and a second end portion and a middle portion;

the first side of the strip material including an adhesive material;

the first end and second end being positioned to cover a predetermined portion of the epidermis located to each side of the bridge of the nose;

the strip of material including a plurality of resilient spring structures extending therethrough;

the middle portion including a first edge and second edge;

the first edge and the second edge of the middle portion including a flap mechanism integral thereto;

whereby the flap mechanism is capable of being folded over the first side of the strip material to cover the middle portion of the first side of the strip material;

the method comprising folding the flap mechanism over the middle portion of the strip material;

positioning the first and second end portions of the epidermis of the nose.

12. A method for improving air flow into and out of a human body through the nasal passages of a human nose using an epidermal lifting mechanism for providing a lifting force over a predetermined area of the epidermis located to either side of the bridge of the nose, the epidermal lifting system including a strip of material having a first end portion of a predetermined shape, a second end portion of a predetermined shape, and a middle portion coupling the first end portion to the second end portion;

the first end portion and the second end portion each having a side including an adhesive material;

the side further including a plurality of slit structures extending therethrough;

the side including a perimeter edge structure;

the slit structures being located substantially within a predetermined portion of this outer perimeter;

the method comprising positioning the first and second end portions on either side of the nose;

and applying the side including adhesive material to the epidermal surface of the nose.

13. An epidermal positioning mechanism for positioning the epidermis, the epidermal positioning mechanism comprising:

an elastic material coupled to a first end piece and a second piece;

the first end piece and the second piece each having at least one side including an adhesive material.

14. The epidermal positioning mechanism of claim 13 wherein at least one end piece has a first side and a second side;

the adhesive material being located on the first side;

the first side further including a plurality of slits having a predetermined shape.

15. The epidermal positioning system of claim 14 wherein the predetermined shape of the slits is a U shape.

16. The epidermal positioning system of claim 13 wherein at least one the end piece is an anchoring mechanism.

17. The epidermal positioning system of claim 13 wherein the second end piece is a lifting end piece.

18. The epidermal positioning system of claim 13 wherein the elastic material includes at least one side having a medicinal material thereon.

19. An epidermal positioning mechanism comprising;

a bandage structure having at least a first end and a second end;

a first elastic material coupled to the first end and a second elastic material coupled to the second end of the bandage structure;

a first anchoring structure coupled to at least a portion of the first elastic material; and a second anchoring structure coupled to at least a portion of the second elastic material.

20. The epidermal positioning mechanism of claim 19 wherein the first anchoring structure and the second anchoring structure each comprises an end piece coupled to the respective first and second elastic material at respective predetermined positions;

the end pieces including an adhesive material located thereon.

21. The epidermal positioning mechanism of claim 19 wherein the bandage structure includes at least one side having a medicinal material thereon.

22. The medicinal material of claim 21 comprising zinc chromate.

23. The medicinal material of claim 21 comprising zinc chromate impregnated in a hydrocolloid material.

24. The medicinal material of claim 21 comprising an alginate.

25. The alginate of claim 24 comprising one of the group consisting of calcium alginate and sodium alginate.

26. A dressing mechanism comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section; the first section being coupled to the second section and the second

section being coupled to the third section; the second section comprising an elastic material; the first section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon.

27. The dressing mechanism of claim 26 wherein the second section includes a plurality of openings.

28. The dressing mechanism of claim 27 wherein the openings are of a predetermined size.

29. The dressing mechanism of claim 27 wherein the openings are of a predetermined shape.

30. The dressing mechanism of claim 29 wherein the openings of predetermined shape are spatially organized in a predetermined manner respective to each other.

31. The dressing mechanism of claim 26 wherein the second section includes a first margin and a second margin; the first section being integral to the second section at the first margin; and the third section being integral to the second section at the second margin.

32. The dressing mechanism of claim 26 wherein the first section and the third section are laminated materials comprising a first layer, a second intermediate layer, and a third layer; the third layer including the first side.

33. The dressing mechanism of claim 32 wherein the second section includes a first margin and a second margin; the first section includes a first channel located between the first layer and the third layer of the first section for receiving the first margin; and the second section includes a second channel located between the first layer and the third layer of the second section for receiving the second margin; the second intermediate layer comprising an adhesive material; the first margin and the second margin respectively including at least one opening; the first margin engaging the second intermediate layer in the first channel and the adhesive material extending through the opening of the first margin; and the second margin engaging the second intermediate layer in the second channel and the adhesive material extending through the opening of the second margin.

34. The dressing mechanism of claim 33 wherein the first and third layer of the first section and the first and third layer of the third section comprise an inelastic material.

35. The dressing mechanism of claim 34 wherein the inelastic material is a polyester.

36. A dressing mechanism comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section; the first section being coupled to the second section and the second section being coupled to the third section; the first section and the third section comprising an elastic material; the first section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon.

37. The dressing mechanism of claim 36 wherein the second section includes at least one opening.

38. The dressing mechanism of claim 37 wherein the opening is of a predetermined size.

39. The dressing mechanism of claim 36 wherein the first section and the third section each include at least one opening comprising a predetermined shape.

40. The dressing mechanism of claim 39 wherein the openings of predetermined shape are spatially organized in a predetermined manner respective to each other.

41. The dressing mechanism of claim 36 wherein the second section includes at least one margin; the first section being integral to the second section at the margin; and the third section being integral to the second section at the margin.

42. The dressing mechanism of claim 36 wherein the second section is a laminated material comprising at least a first layer, a second intermediate layer, and a third layer; the third layer including the first side.

43. The dressing mechanism of claim 42 wherein the first section and the third section include a first section margin and a third section margin; the second section including at least one channel located between the first layer and the third layer of the second section for receiving the margins; the second intermediate layer comprising an adhesive material; the first section margin and the second section margin respectively including at least one opening; the margins engaging the second intermediate layer in the channel and the adhesive material extending through the openings of the margins; and the adhesive material extending through the openings of the margins.

44. The dressing mechanism of claim 43 wherein the first and third layer of the second section comprises an inelastic material.

45. The dressing mechanism of claim 44 wherein the inelastic material is a polyester.

46. The dressing mechanism of claim 36 wherein the second section includes at least one opening.

47. The dressing mechanism of claim 36 wherein the second section includes at least one generally transparent section.

48. The dressing mechanism of claim 36 wherein the second section includes at least one wound irrigation mechanism.

49. The dressing mechanism of claim 36 where the second section comprises a first side and a second side; the second side capable of contacting a wound.

50. The dressing mechanism of claim 49 wherein the second side comprises a medicinal material.

51. The medicinal material of claim 50 comprising zinc chromate.

52. The medicinal material of claim 50 comprising zinc chromate impregnated in a hydrocolloid material.

53. The medicinal material of claim 50 comprising an alginate.

54. The alginate of claim 53 comprising one of the group consisting of calcium alginate and sodium alginate.

55. A dressing comprising: a plurality of anchor structures, a treatment section, and an elastic material; said elastic material extending from said anchoring structure to said treatment section; said elastic material being coupled to at least one anchoring structure at a first coupling section and to said treatment section at a second coupling section.

56. The dressing of claim 55 wherein said anchoring structures include a first side having an adhesive located thereon.

57. The dressing of claim 55 wherein said elastic material includes a plurality of openings located at predetermined positions.

58. The dressing of claim 57 wherein said openings have a at least one predetermined shape.

59. The dressing of claim 58 wherein said shape is oriented in a predetermined manner and direction.

60. The dressing of claim 55 wherein said anchor structures include a slit structure for receiving said first coupling section of said elastic material.

61. The dressing of claim 60 wherein said first coupling section includes a plurality of openings extending therethrough.

62. The dressing of claim 61 wherein said slit structure includes at least one adhesive material and said first coupling section includes a first surface and a second surface; said adhesive material engaging said first surface, said second surface, and extending through said openings; said adhesive material securing said coupling section to said slit structure.

63. The dressing of claim 55 wherein the treatment section is comprised of a gauze material.

64. The dressing of claim 55 wherein the treatment section includes a plurality of air vents.

65. The dressing of claim 55 wherein the treatment section includes at least one opening.

66. The dressing of claim 55 wherein the treatment section includes a transparent wall located at a predetermined area.

67. The dressing of claim 55 wherein said treatment section includes at least one input port and one output port.

68. The dressing of claim 55 wherein said treatment section is impregnated with at leas one predetermined medicine.

69. A method for using a dressing mechanism comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section; the first section being coupled to the second section and the second section being coupled to the third section; the first section and the third section comprising an elastic material; the first section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon, said method comprising:

applying said first section to a first predetermined location on an epidermis;

pulling said third section toward a second predetermined location on said epidermis;

applying said third section to said second predetermined location on said epidermis.

70. The method of claim 69 wherein the second section includes at least one opening.

71. The method of claim 70 wherein the opening is of a predetermined size.

72. The method of claim 69 wherein the first section and the third section each include at least one opening comprising a predetermined shape.

73. The method of claim 69 wherein the openings of predetermined shape are spatially organized in a predetermined manner respective to each other.

74. The method of claim 69 wherein the second section includes at least one margin; the first section being integral to the second section at the margin; and the third section being integral to the second section at the margin.

75. The method of claim 69 wherein the second section is a laminated material comprising at least a first layer, a second intermediate layer, and a third layer; the third layer including the first side.

76. The method of claim 75 wherein the first section and the third section include a first section margin and a third section margin; the second section including at least one channel located between the first layer and the third layer of the second section for receiving the margins; the second intermediate layer comprising an adhesive material; the first section margin and the second section margin respectively including at least one opening; the margins engaging the second intermediate layer in the channel and the adhesive material extending through the openings of the margins; and the adhesive material extending through the openings of the margins.

77. The method of claim 76 wherein the first and third layer of the second section comprises an inelastic material.

78. The method of claim 77 wherein the inelastic material is a polyester.

79. The method of claim 69 wherein the second section includes at least one opening.

80. The method of claim 69 wherein the second section includes at least one generally transparent section.

81. The method of claim 69 wherein the second section includes at least one wound irrigation mechanism.

82. The method of claim 69 where the second section comprises a first side and a second side; the second side capable of contacting a wound.

83. The method of claim 82 wherein the second side comprises a medicinal material.

84. The medicinal material of claim 83 comprising zinc chromate.

85. The medicinal material of claim 83 comprising zinc chromate impregnated in a hydrocolloid material.

86. The medicinal material of claim 83 comprising an alginate.

87. The alginate of claim 86 comprising one of the group consisting of calcium alginate and sodium alginate.

88. A method for using a dressing comprising a plurality of anchor structures, a treatment section, and an elastic material; said elastic material extending from said anchoring structure to said treatment section; said elastic material being coupled to at least one anchoring structure at a first coupling section and to said treatment section at a second coupling section, said method comprising:

positioning said treatment section over a first predetermined area of an epidermis;

applying at least one anchor structure to a second predetermined area of said epidermis;

applying at one other anchor structure to a third predetermined area of said epidermis.

89. The method of claim 88 wherein the first predetermined area of the epidermis is a wound.

90. The method of claim 88 wherein the first predetermined area of the epidermis is a burn.

91. The method of claim 88 wherein said anchoring structures include a first side having an adhesive located thereon.

92. The method of claim 88 wherein said elastic material includes a plurality of openings located at predetermined positions.

93. The method of claim 92 wherein said openings have a at least one predetermined shape.

94. The method of claim 93 wherein said shape is oriented in a predetermined manner and direction.

95. The method of claim 88 wherein said anchor structures include a slit structure for receiving said first coupling section of said elastic material.

96. The method of claim 95 wherein said first coupling section includes a plurality of openings extending therethrough.

97. The method of claim 96 wherein said slit structure includes at least one adhesive material and said first coupling section includes a first surface and a second surface; said adhesive material engaging said first surface, said second surface, and extending through said openings; said adhesive material securing said coupling section to said slit structure.

98. The method of claim 88 wherein the treatment section is comprised of a gauze material.

99. The method of claim 88 wherein the treatment section includes a plurality of air vents.

100. The method of claim 88 wherein the treatment section includes at least one opening.

101. The method of claim 88 wherein the treatment section includes a transparent wall located at a predetermined area.

102. The method of claim 88 wherein said treatment section includes at least one input port and one output port.

103. The method of claim 88 wherein said treatment section is impregnated with at leas one predetermined medicine.

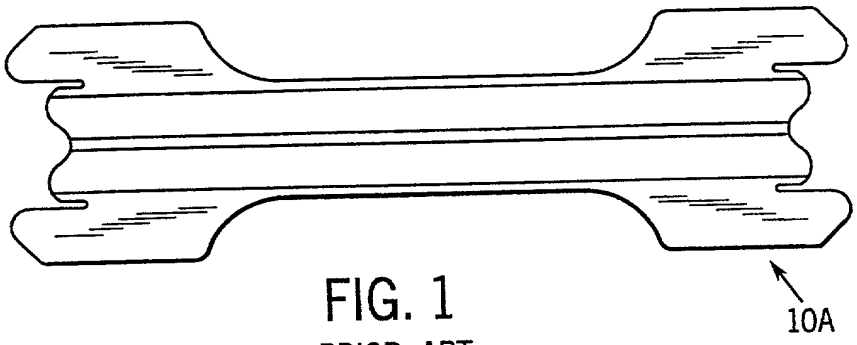


FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

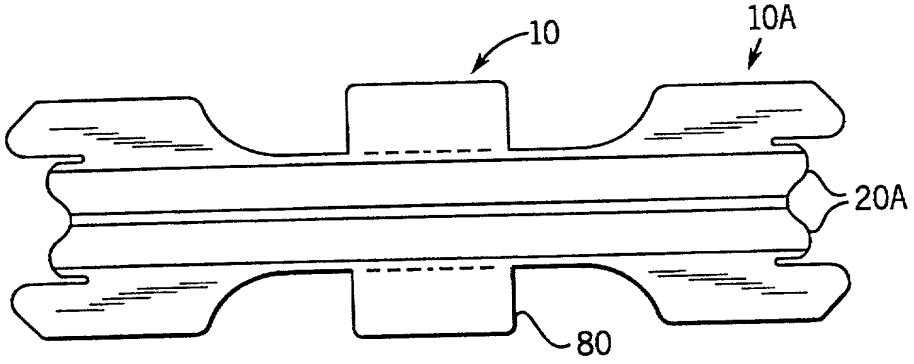


FIG. 1A

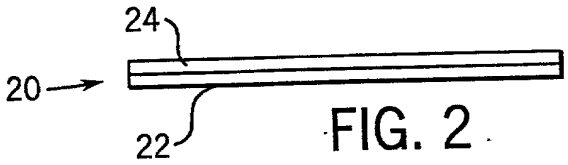


FIG. 2

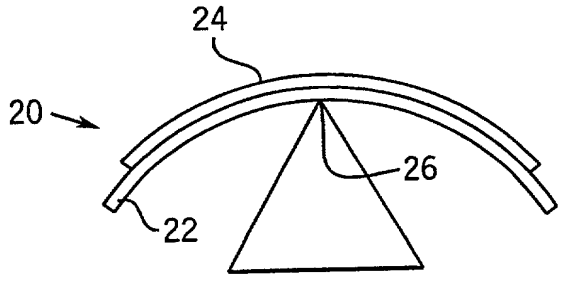


FIG. 3

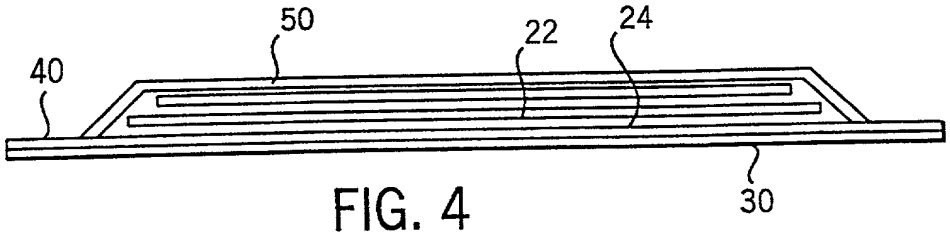


FIG. 4

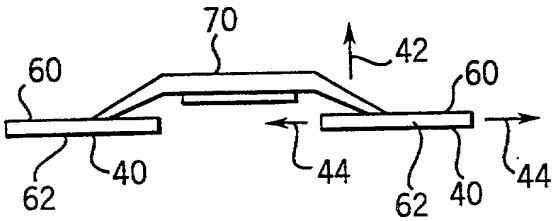


FIG. 5

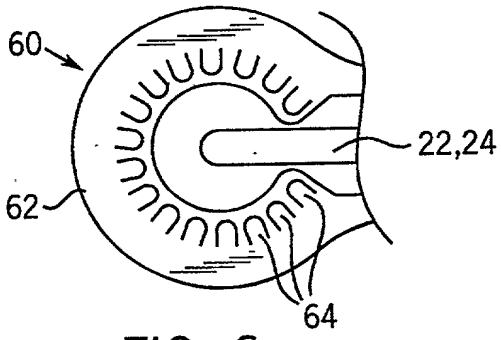


FIG. 6

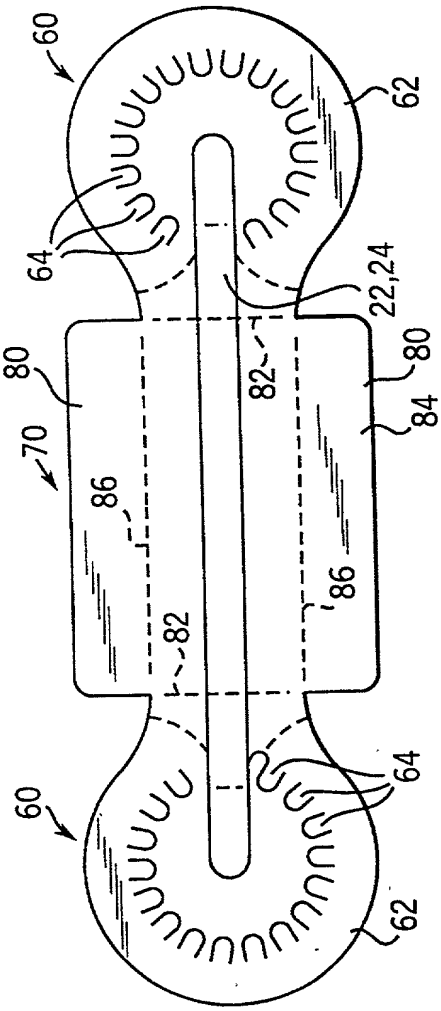


FIG. 7

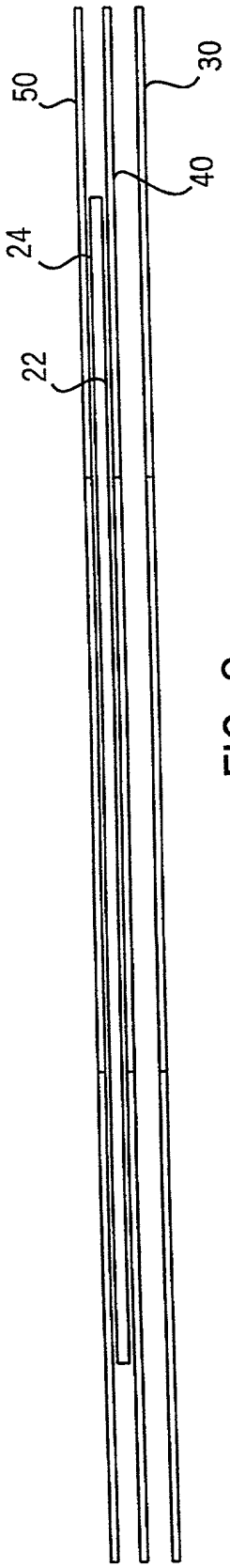
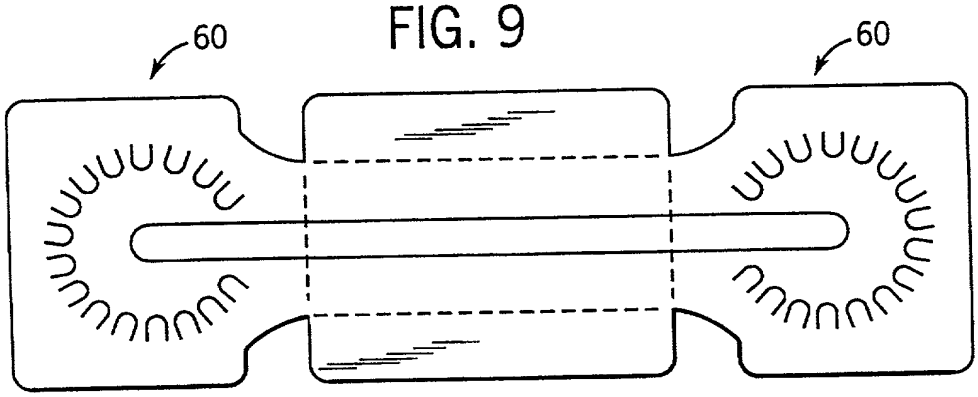


FIG. 8

FIG. 9



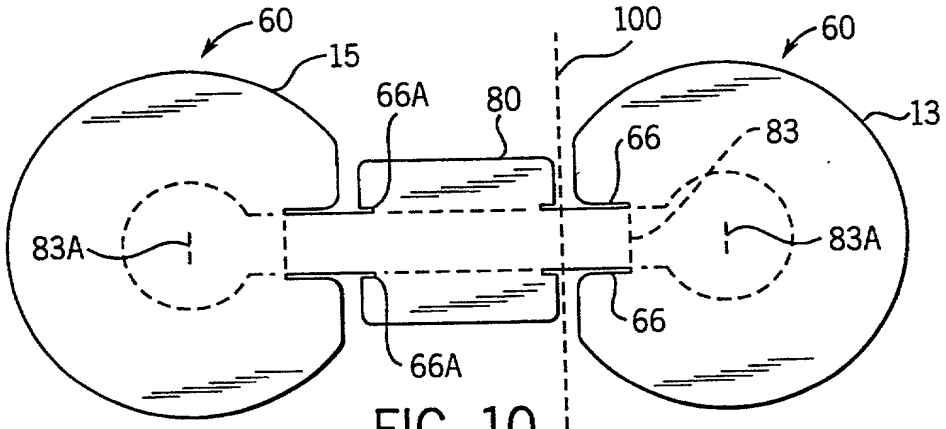


FIG. 10

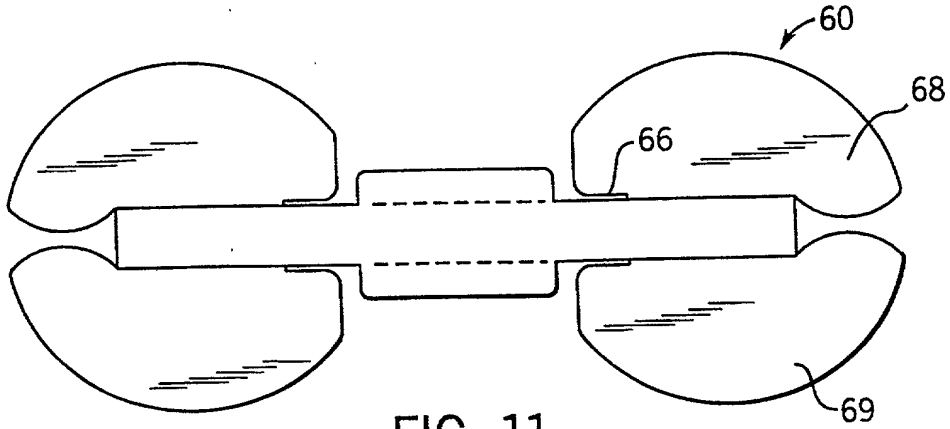


FIG. 11

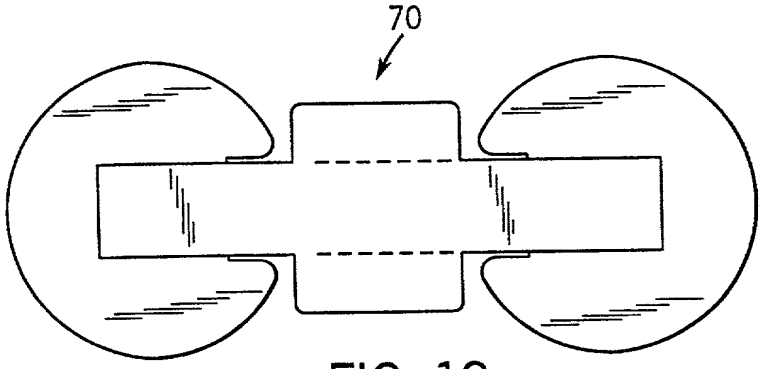


FIG. 12

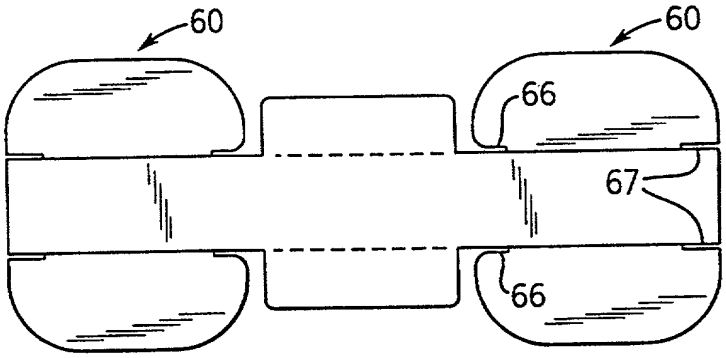


FIG. 13

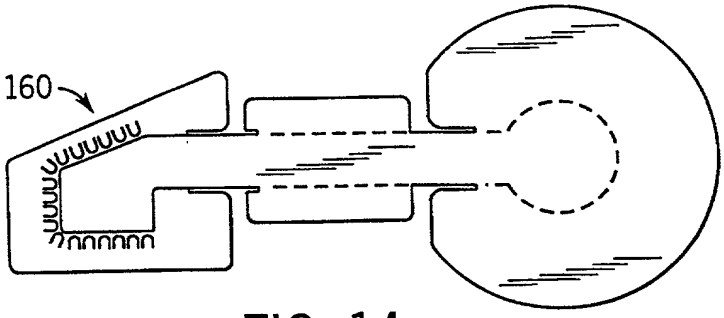


FIG. 14

FIG. 15

FIG. 16

FIG. 17

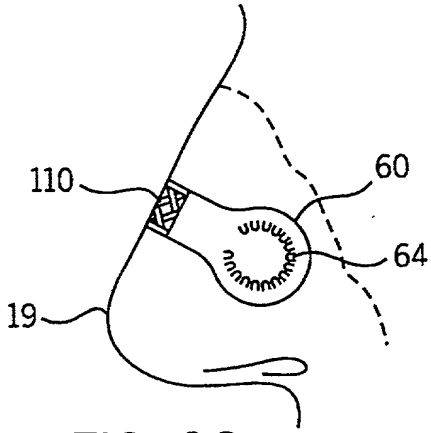


FIG. 26

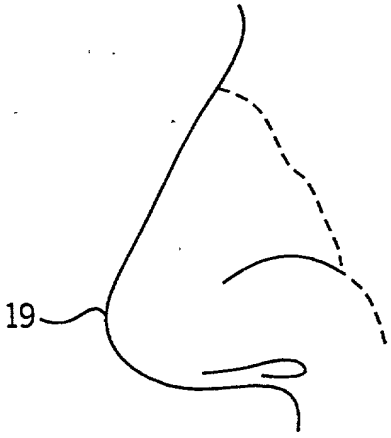
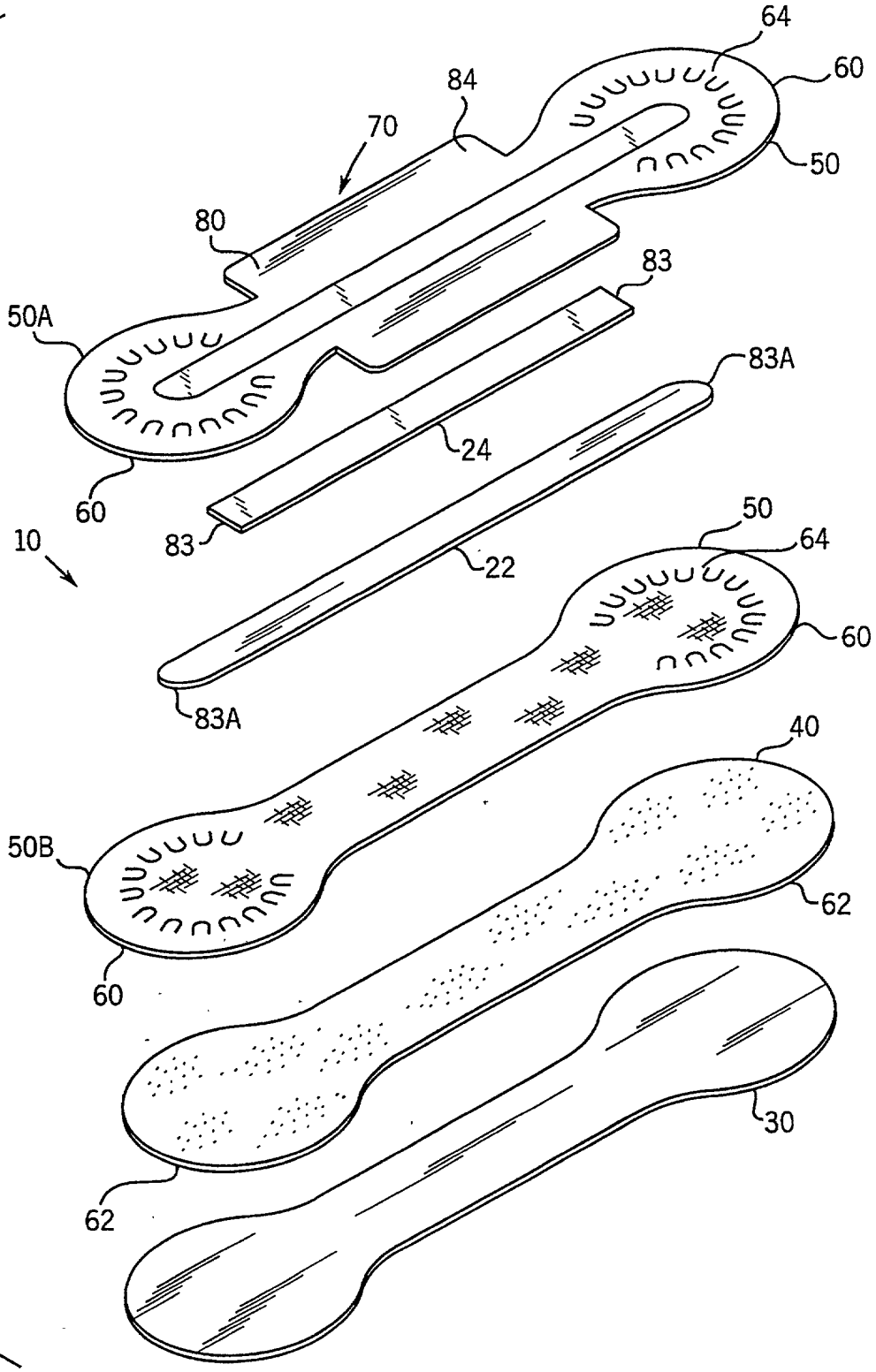


FIG. 27

FIG. 18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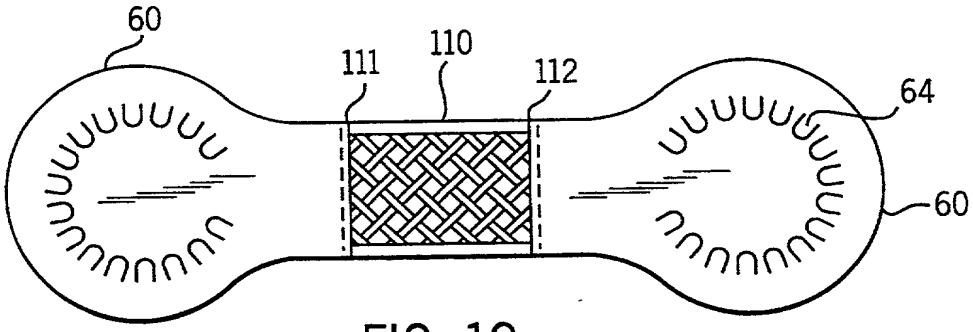

FIG. 19

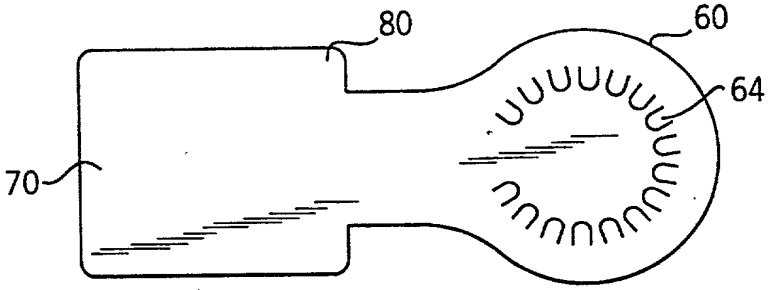

FIG. 20

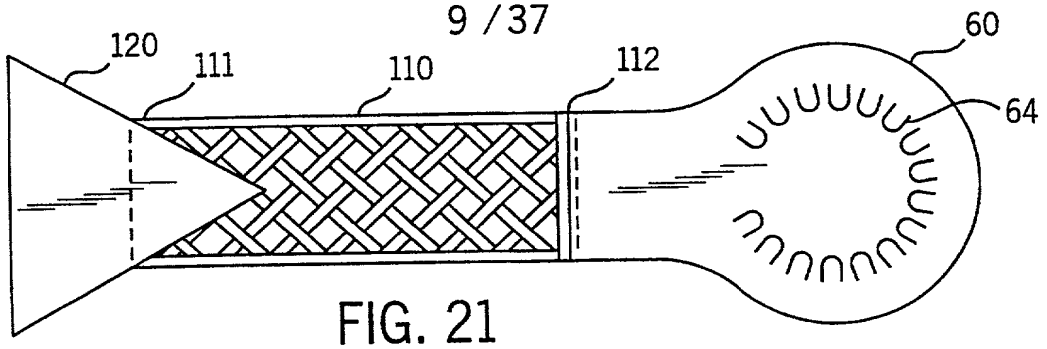

FIG. 21

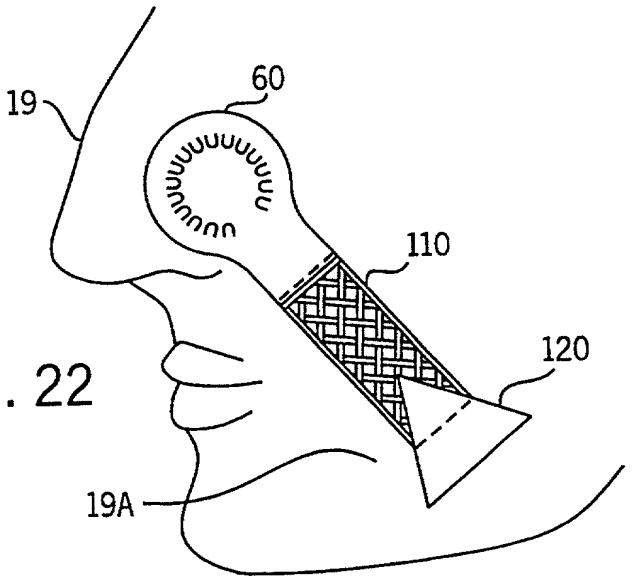

FIG. 22

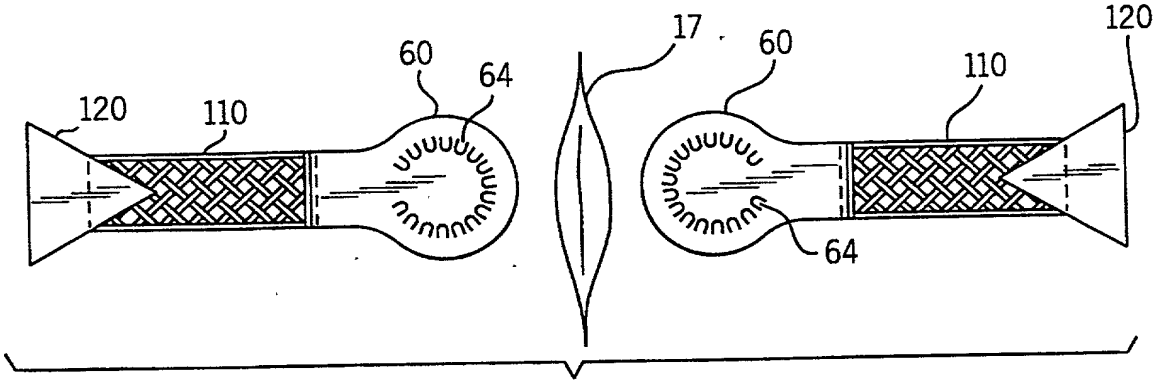

FIG. 23

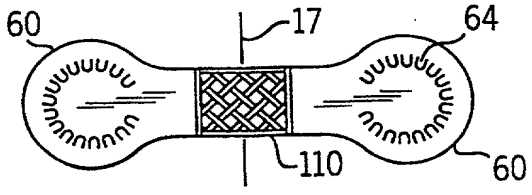

FIG. 24

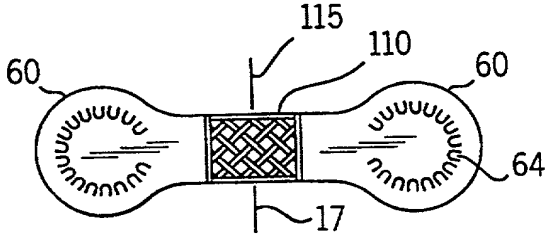

FIG. 25

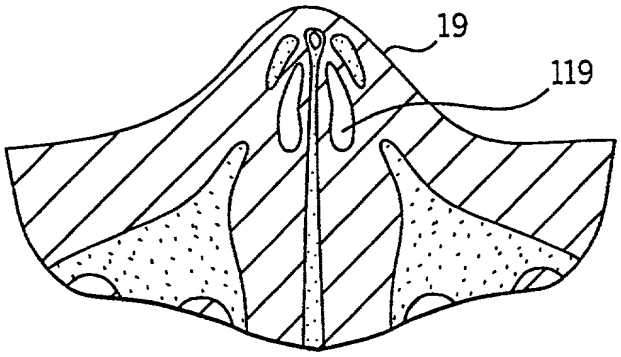

FIG. 28

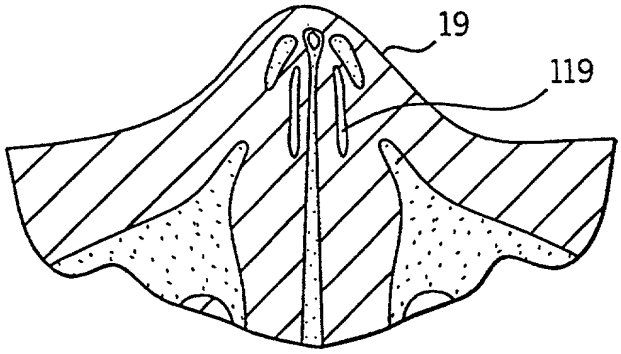

FIG. 29

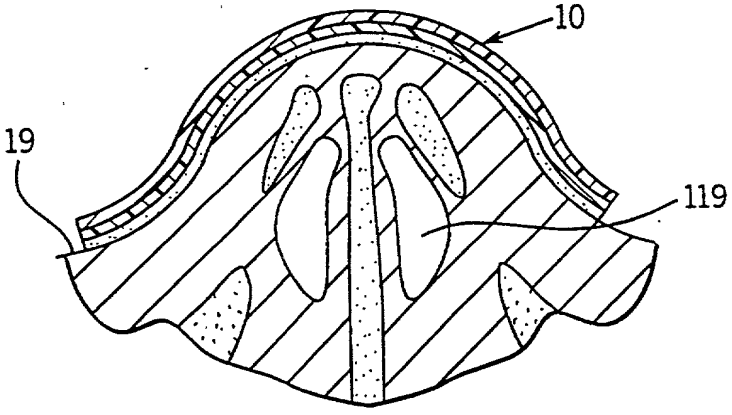

FIG. 30

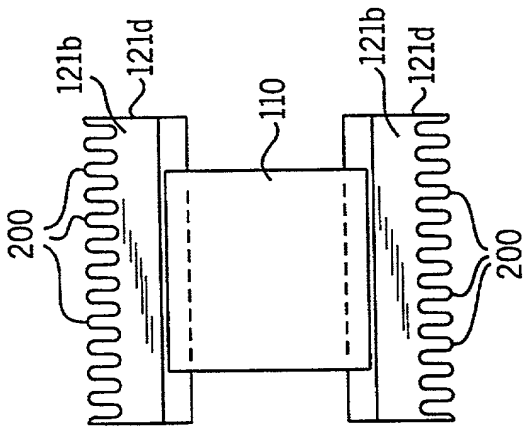

FIG. 33

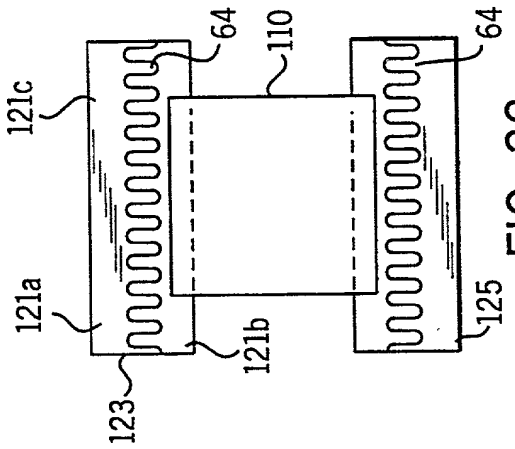

FIG. 32

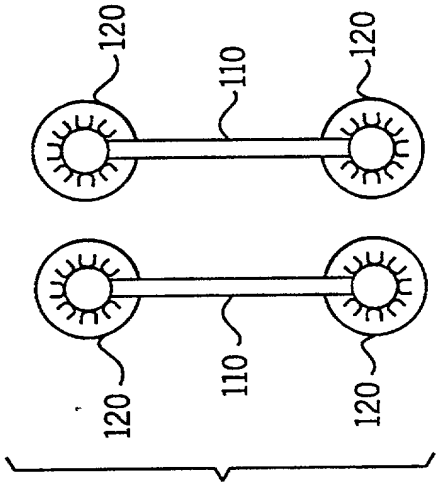

FIG. 34

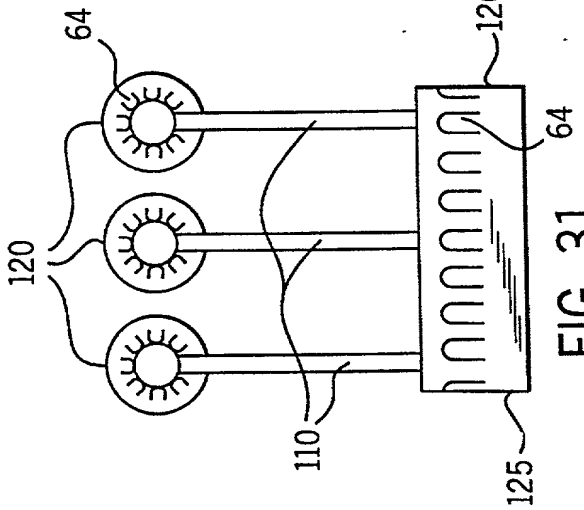

FIG. 31

FIG. 35

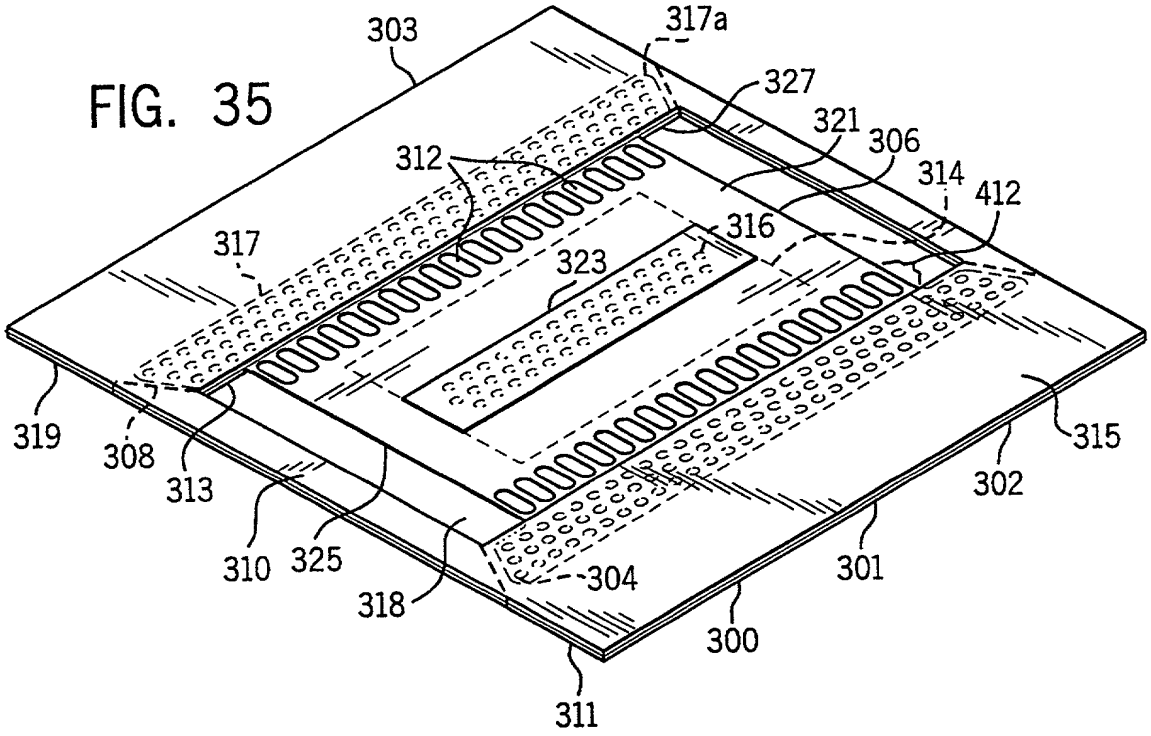
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FIG. 36

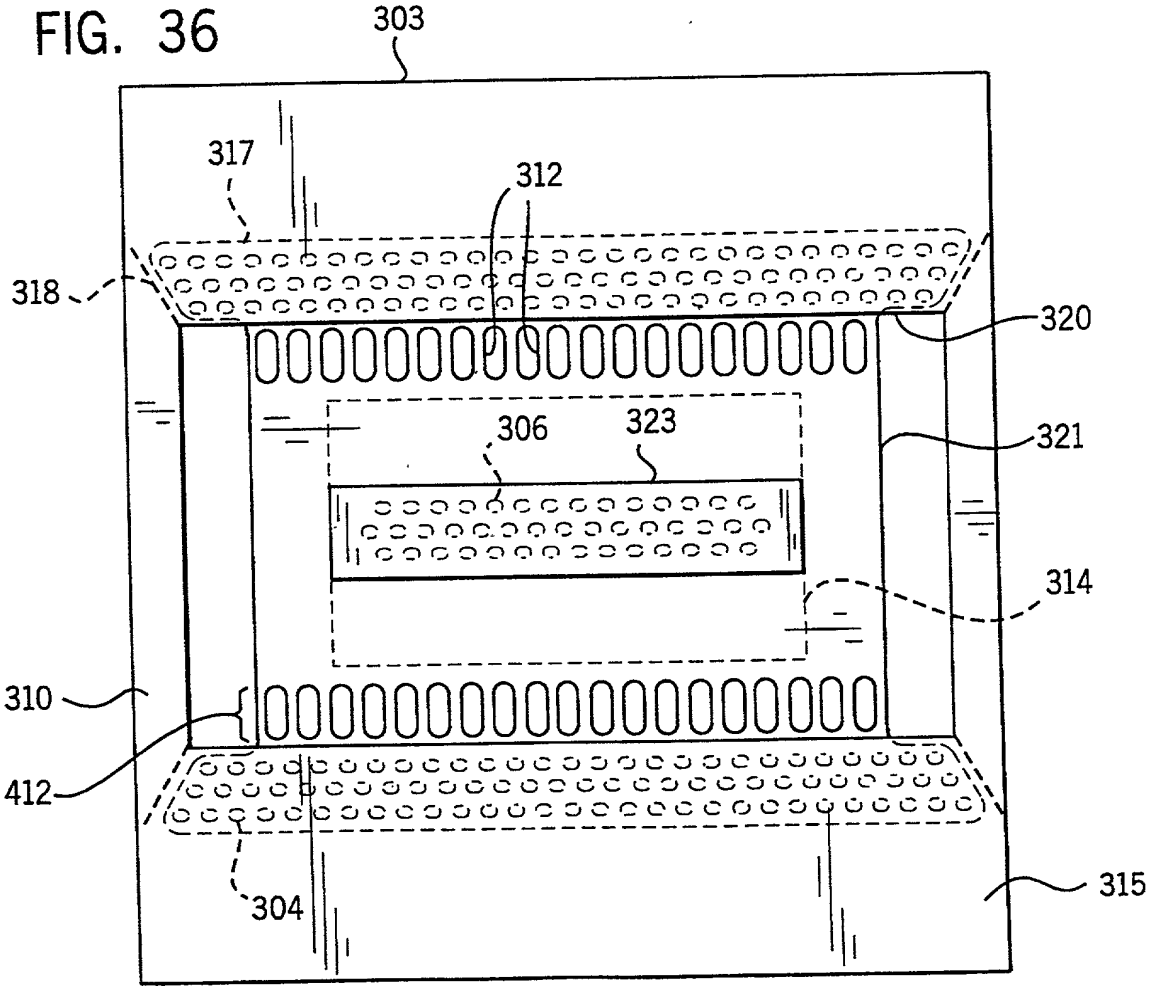
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FIG. 37

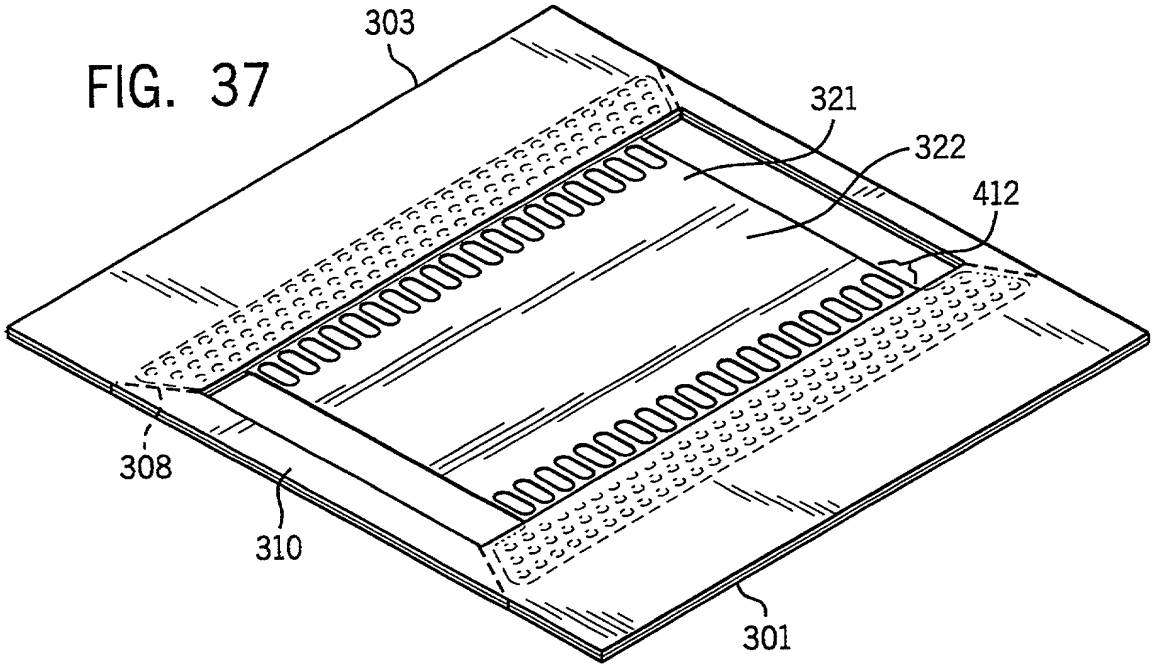

FIG. 38

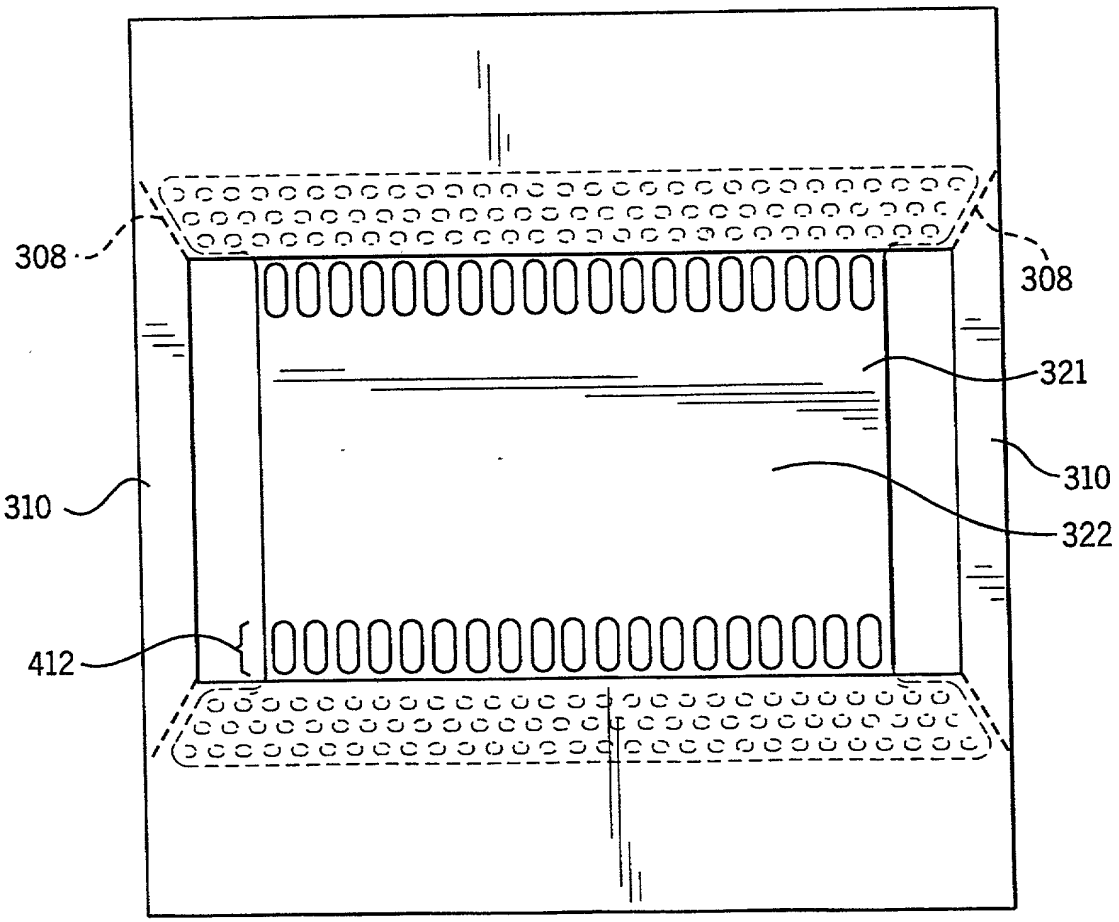

FIG. 39

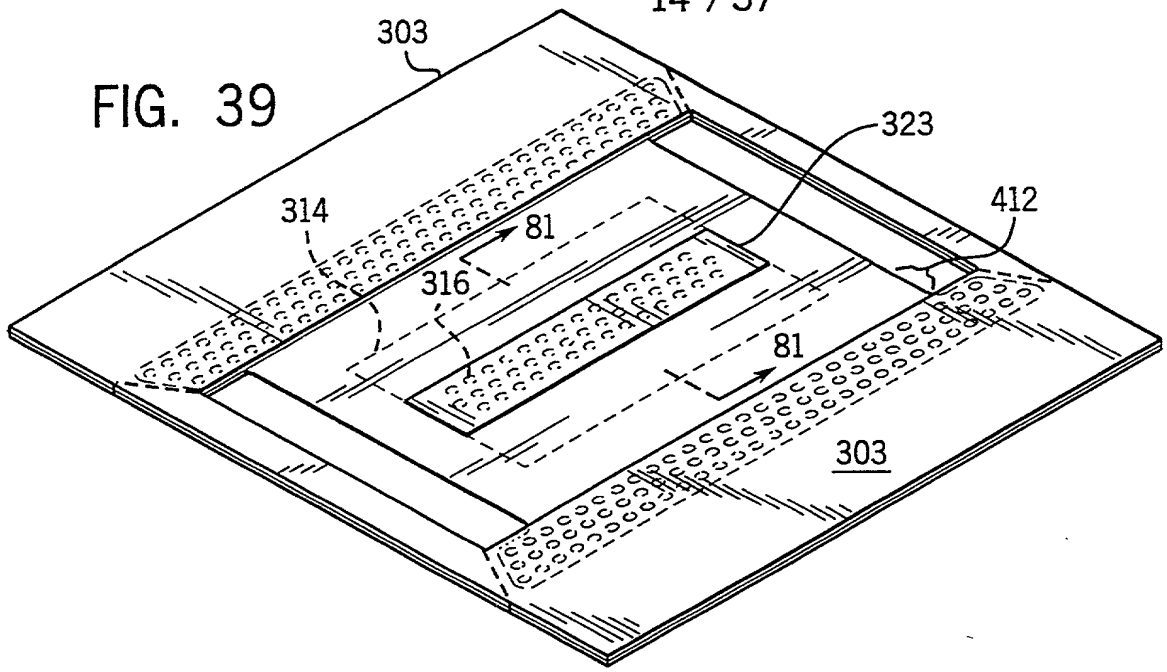

FIG. 40

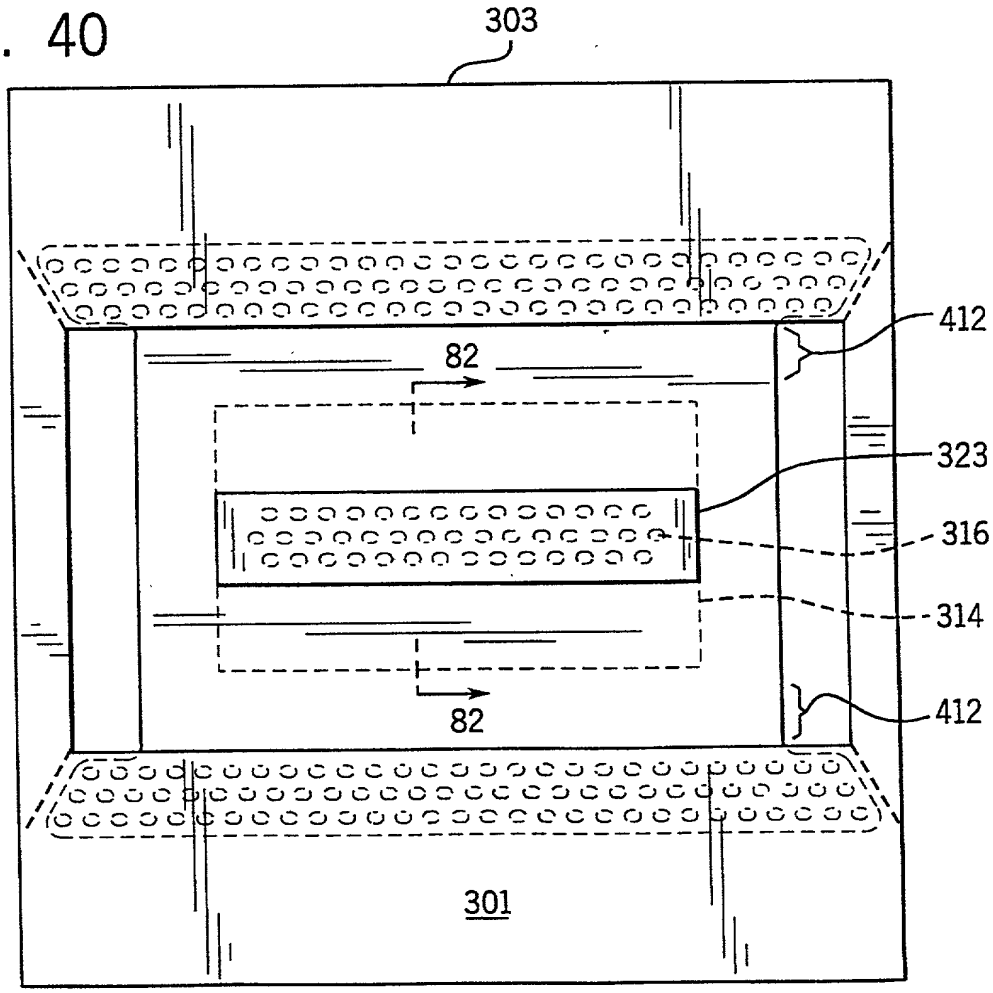

FIG. 41

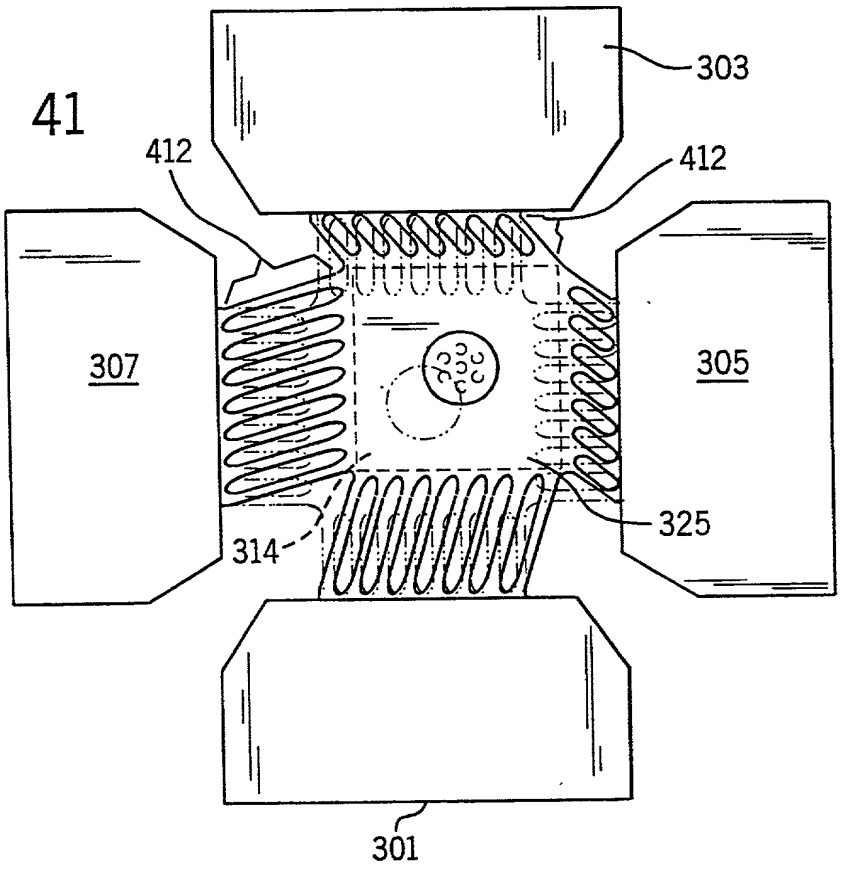
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FIG. 42

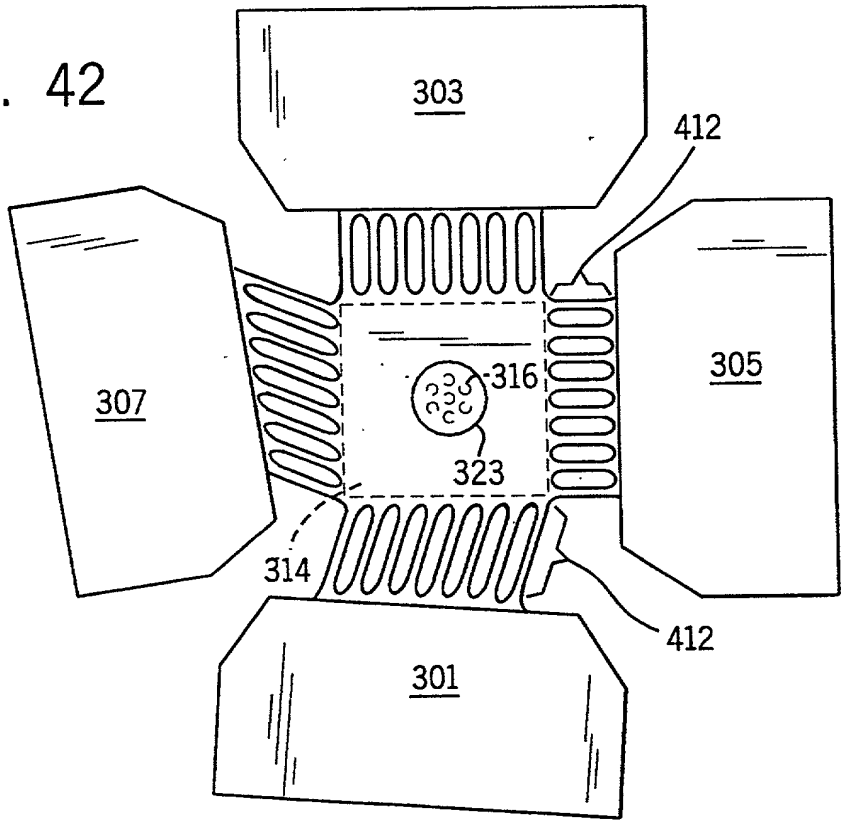
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FIG. 43

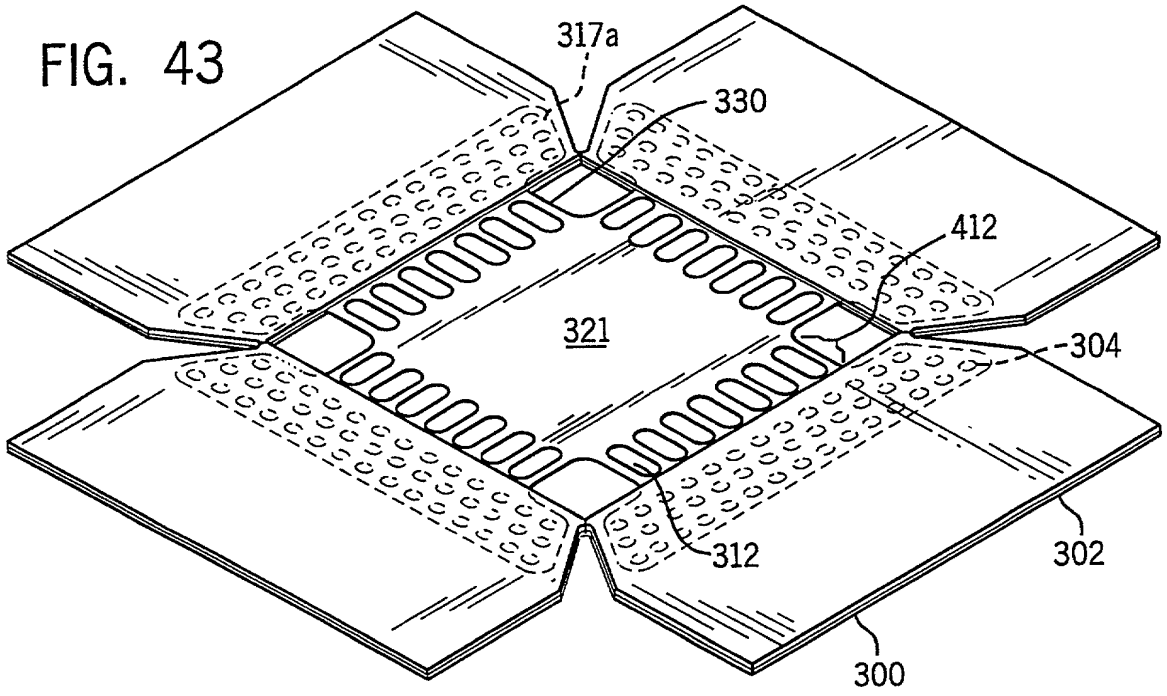
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FIG. 44

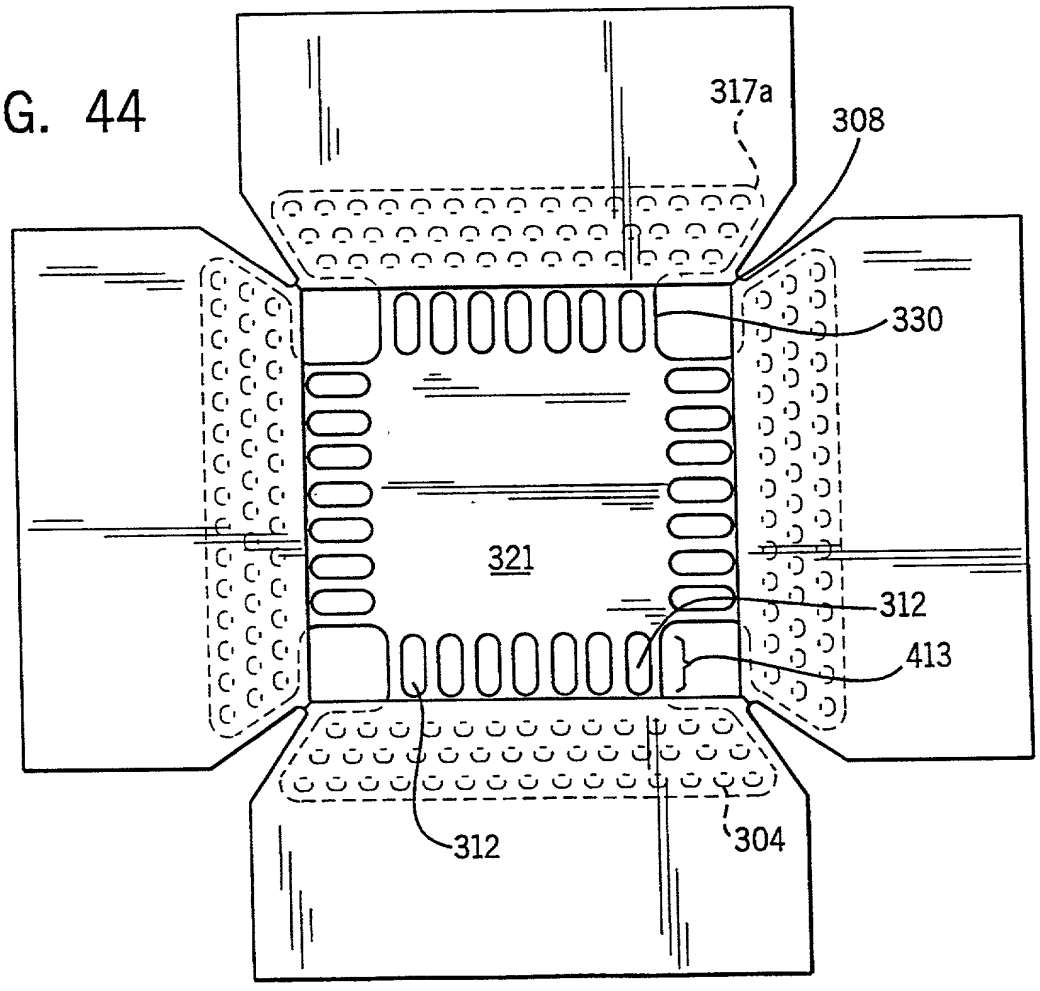
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FIG. 45

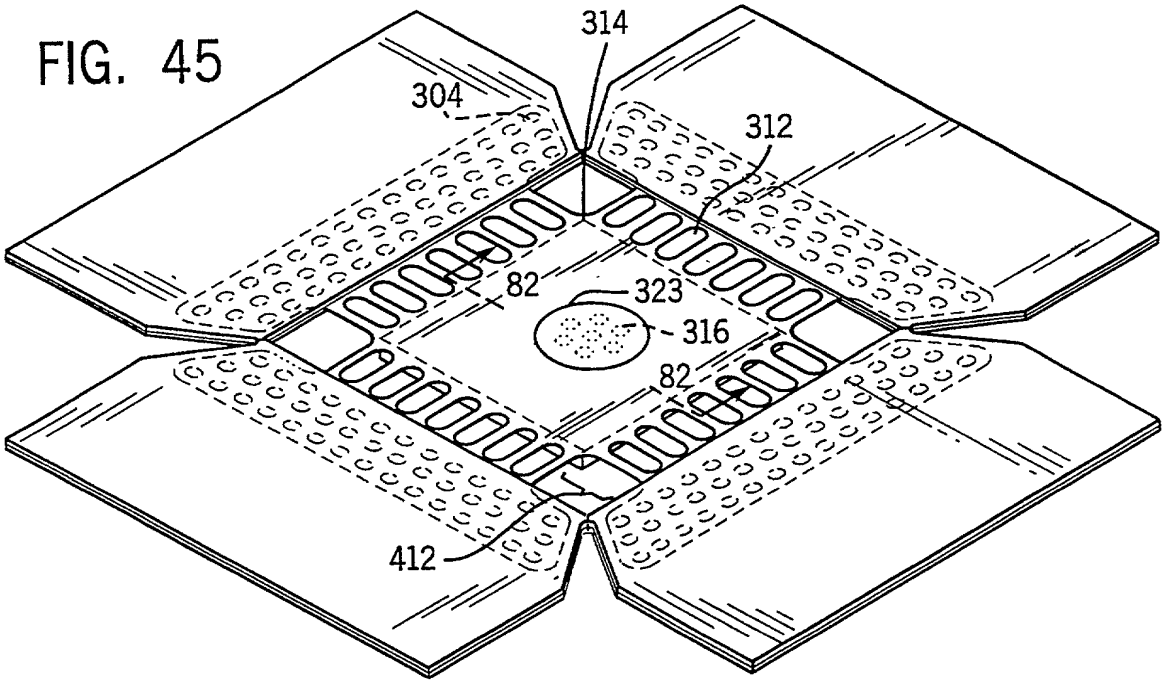

FIG. 46

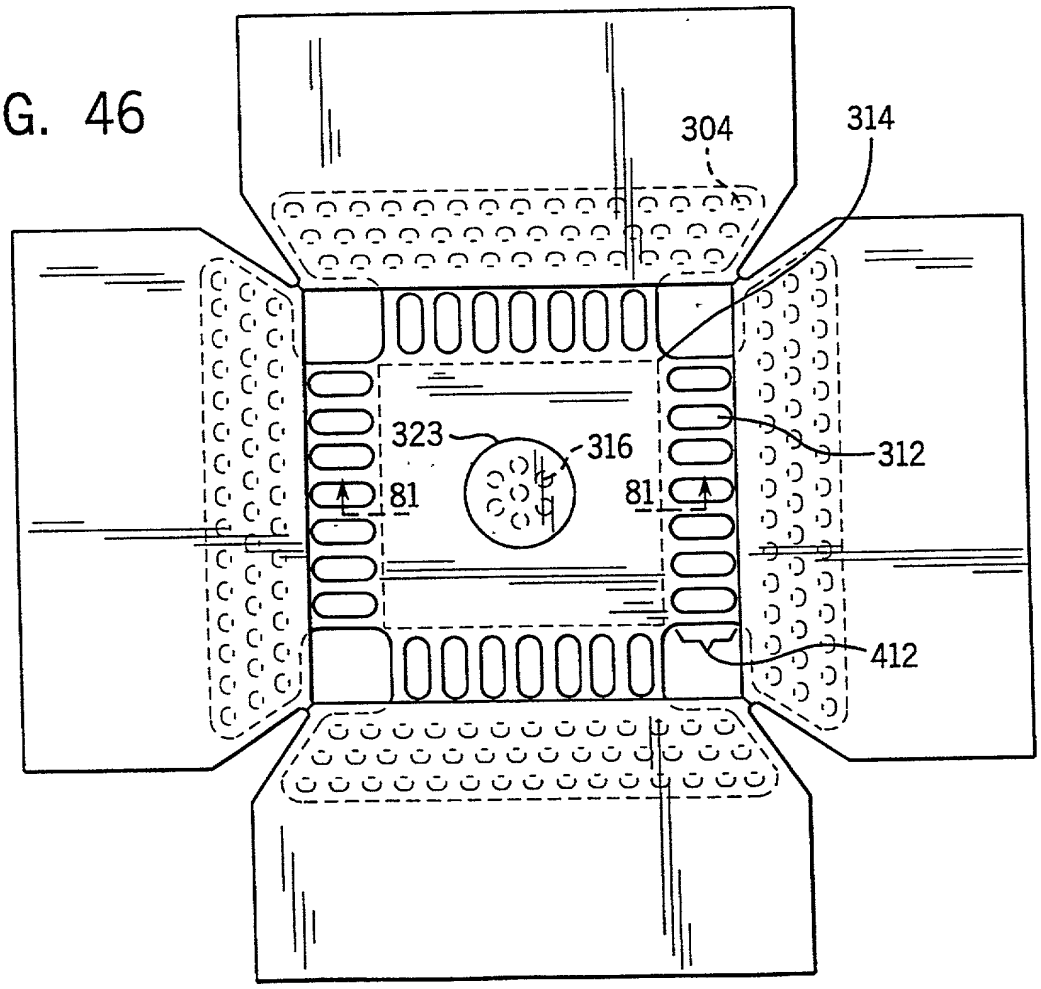

FIG. 47

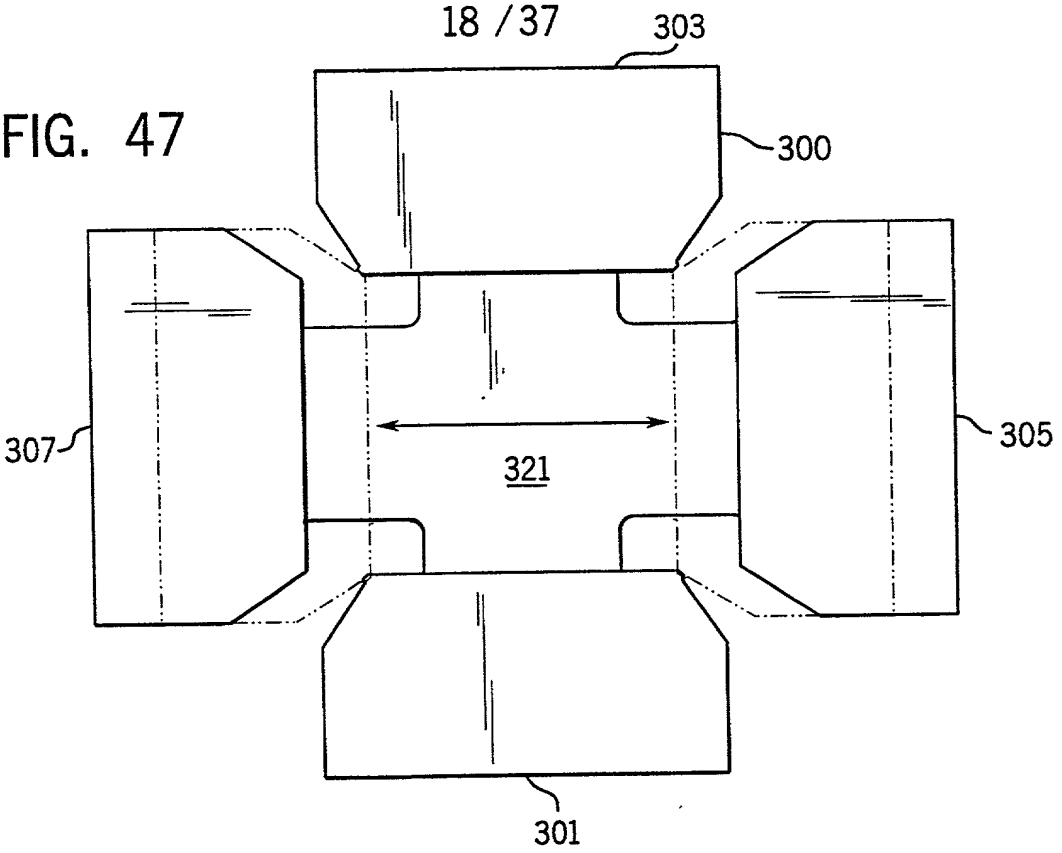

FIG. 48

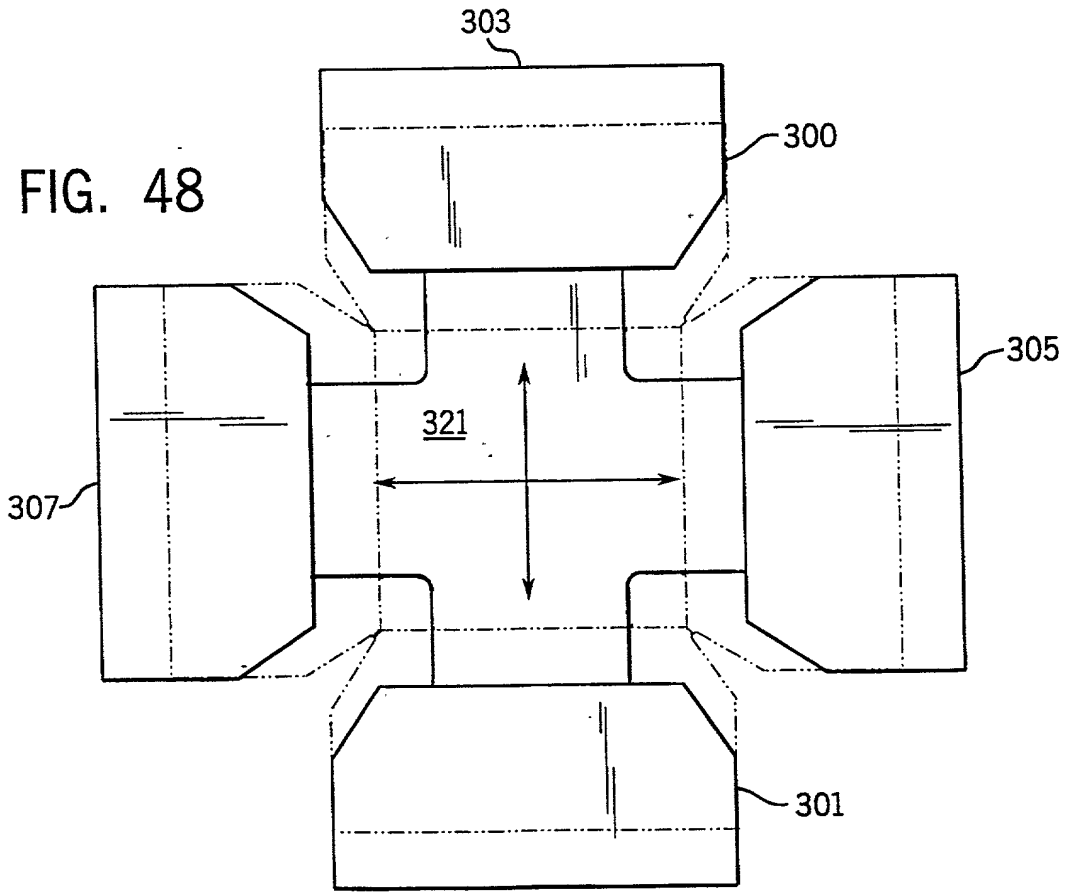

FIG. 49

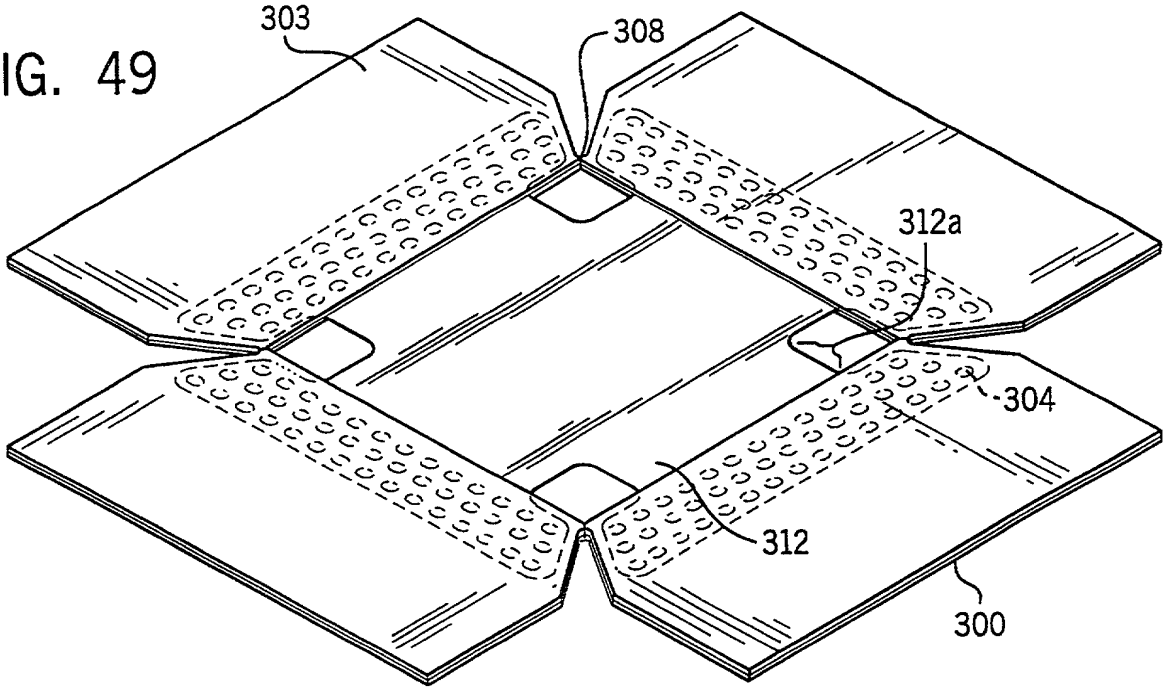

FIG. 50

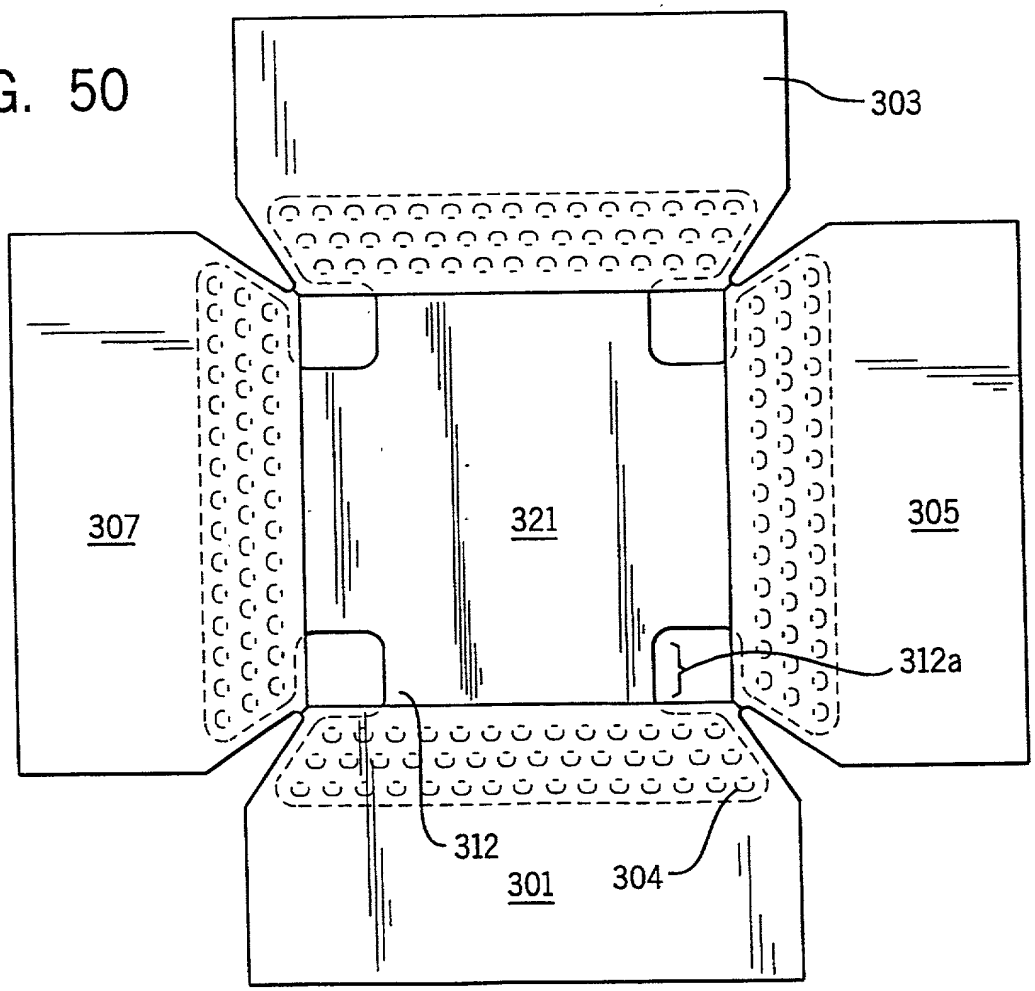

FIG. 51

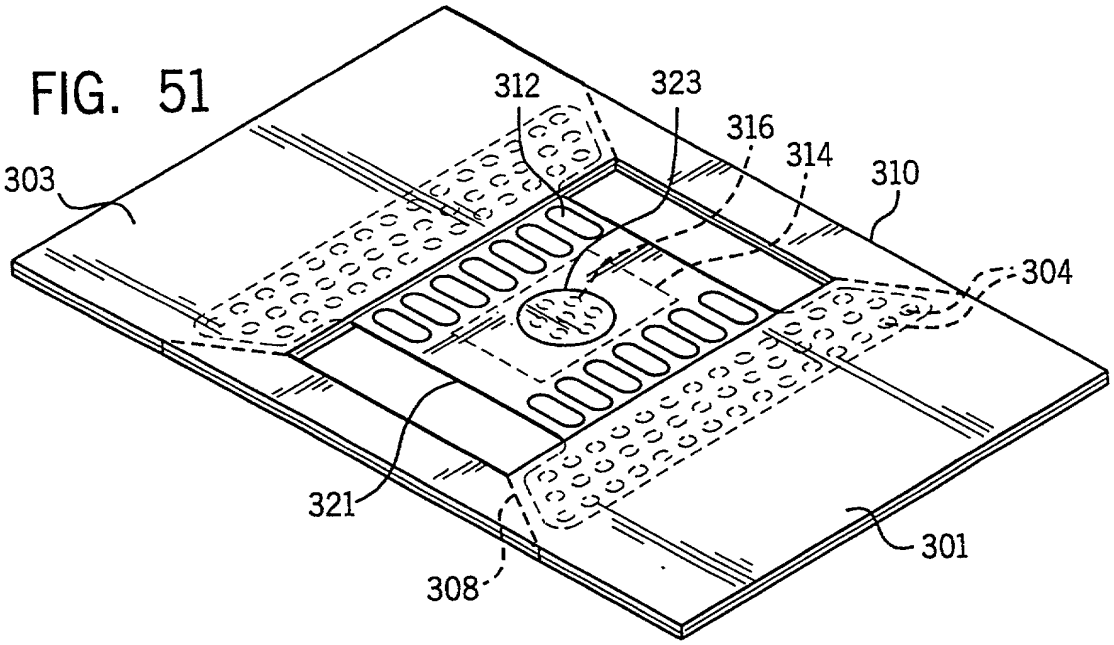
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FIG. 52

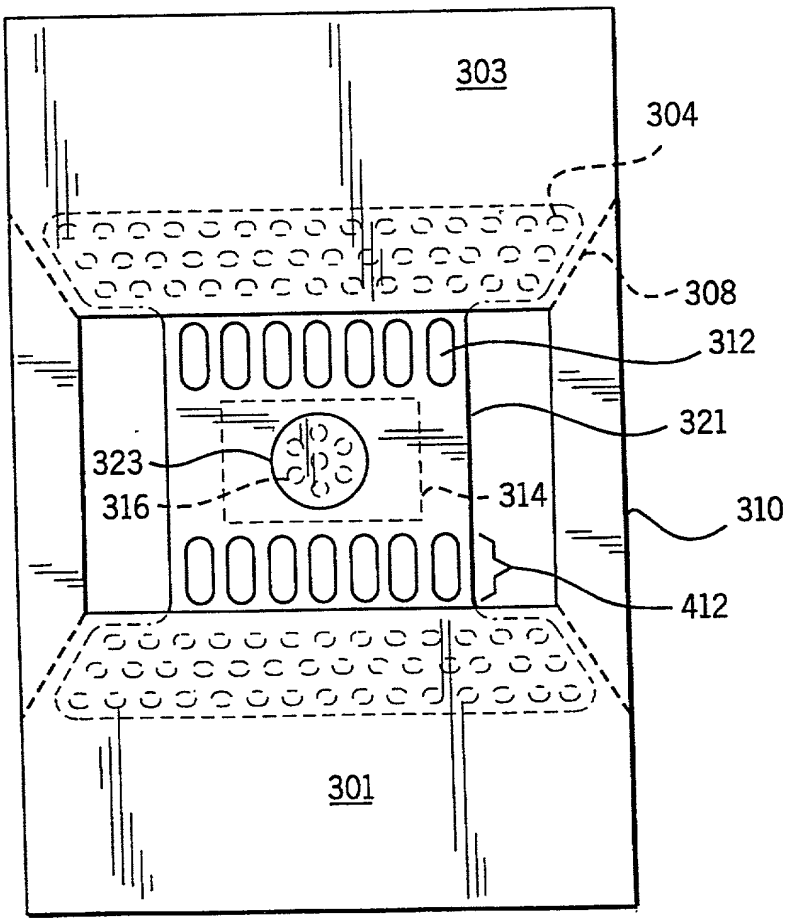
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FIG. 53

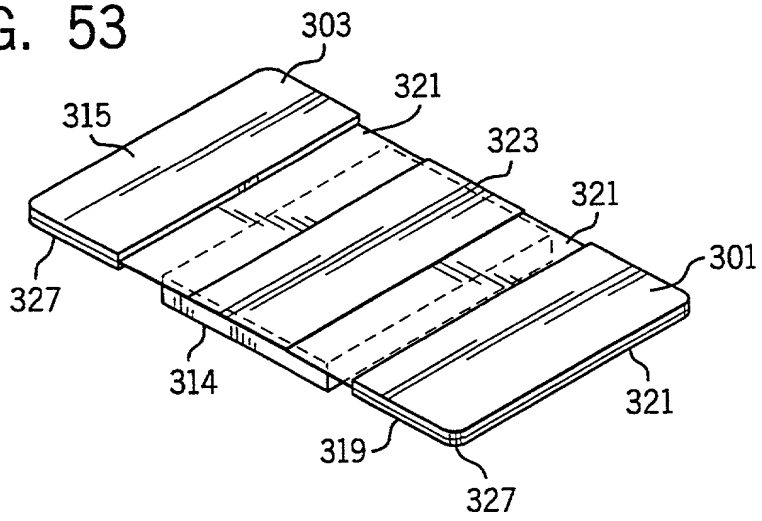
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FIG. 54

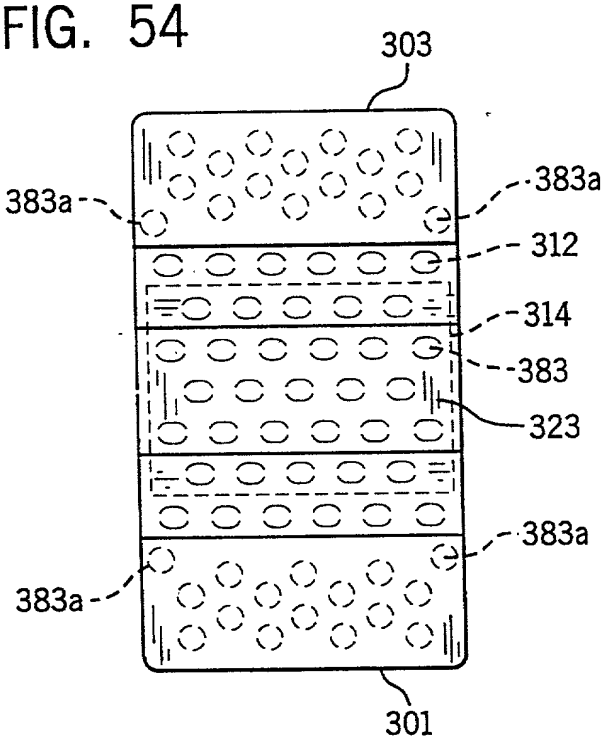
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FIG. 55

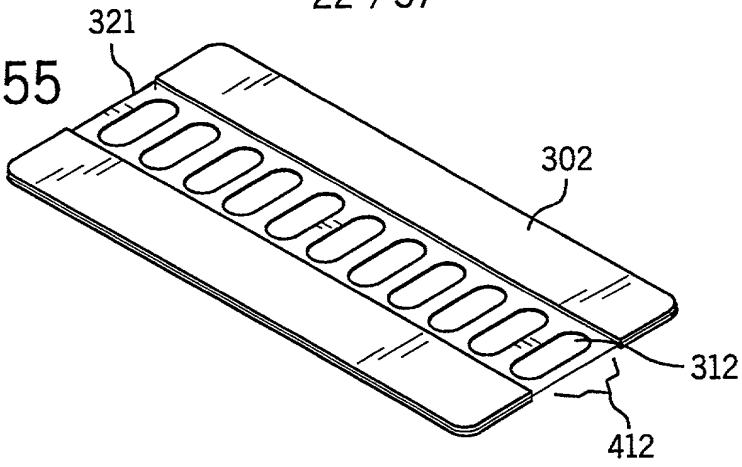


FIG. 56

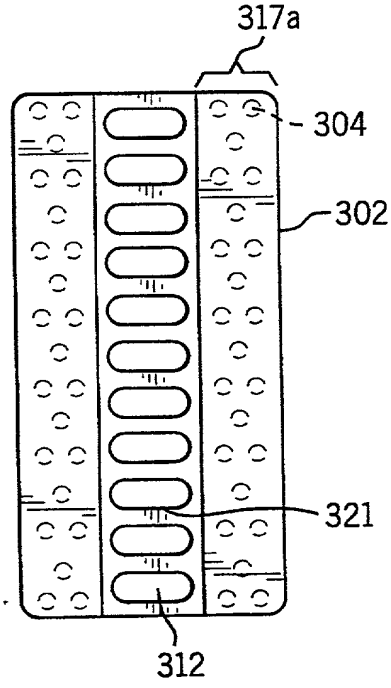


FIG. 57

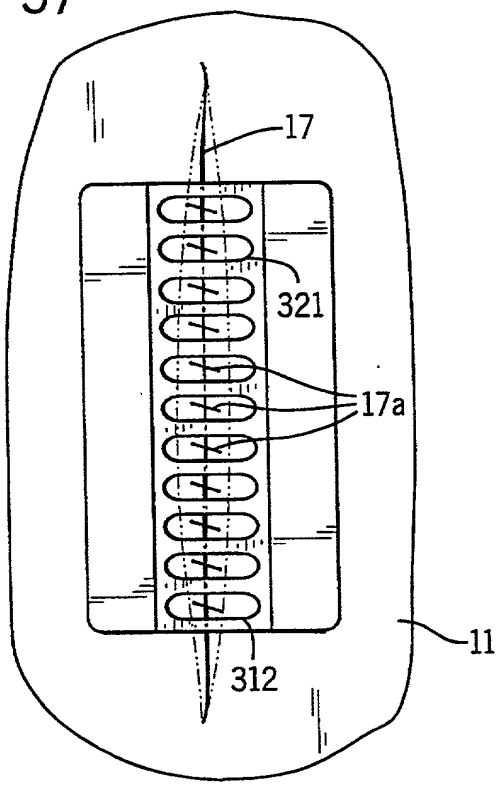
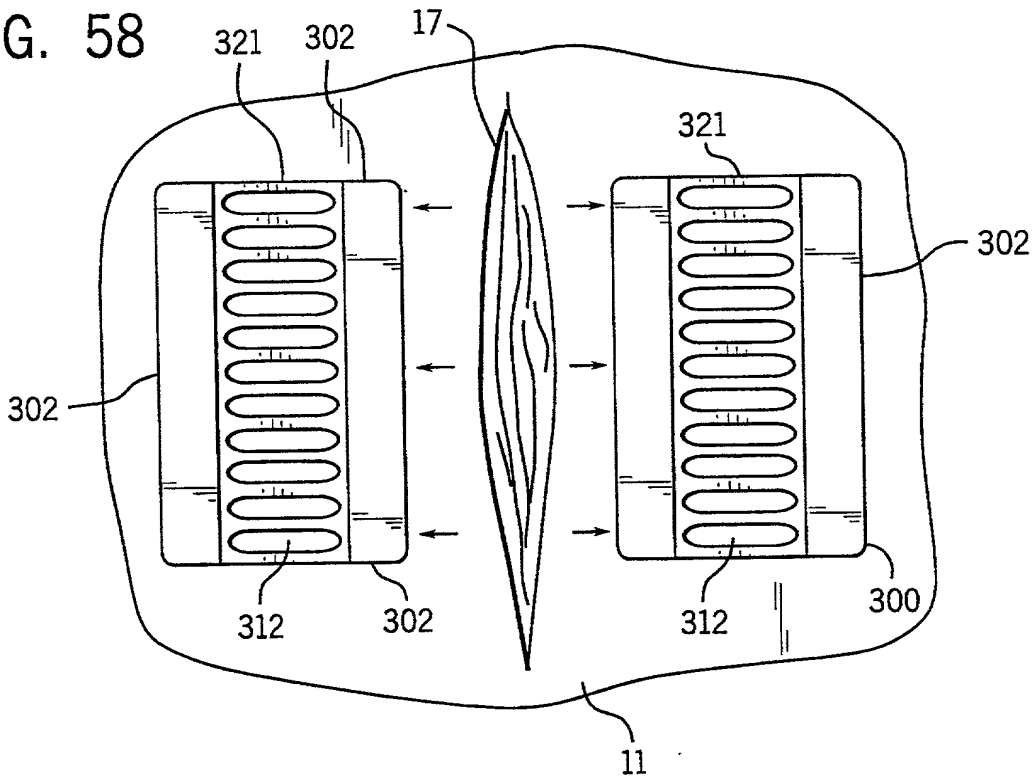


FIG. 58



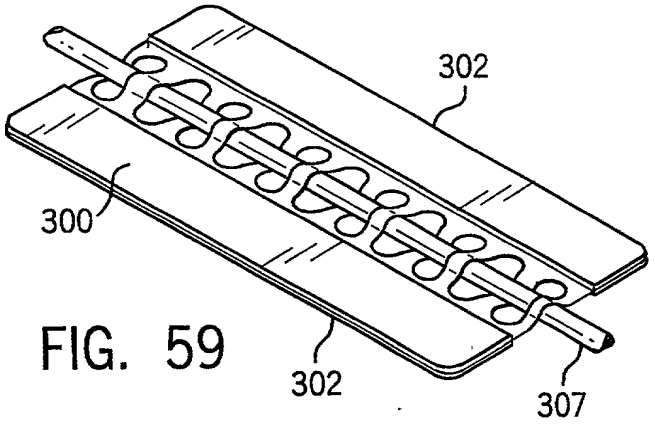


FIG. 59

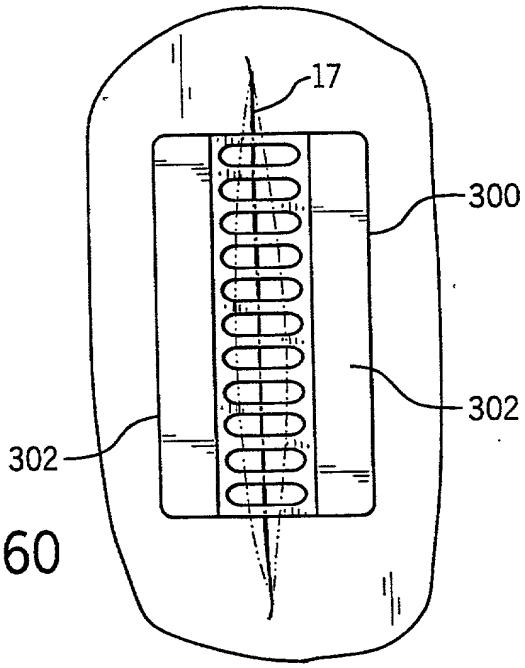


FIG. 60

FIG. 61

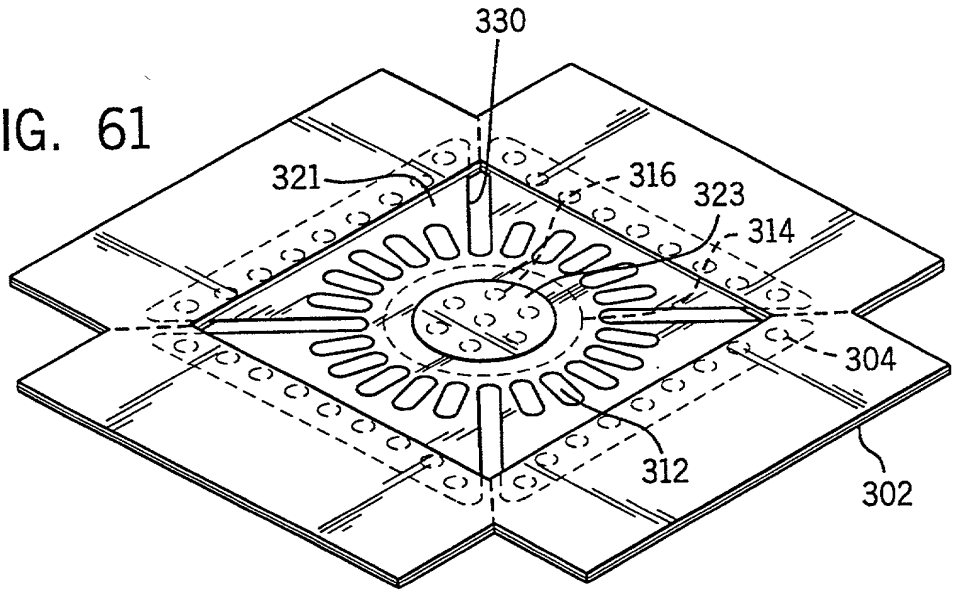


FIG. 62

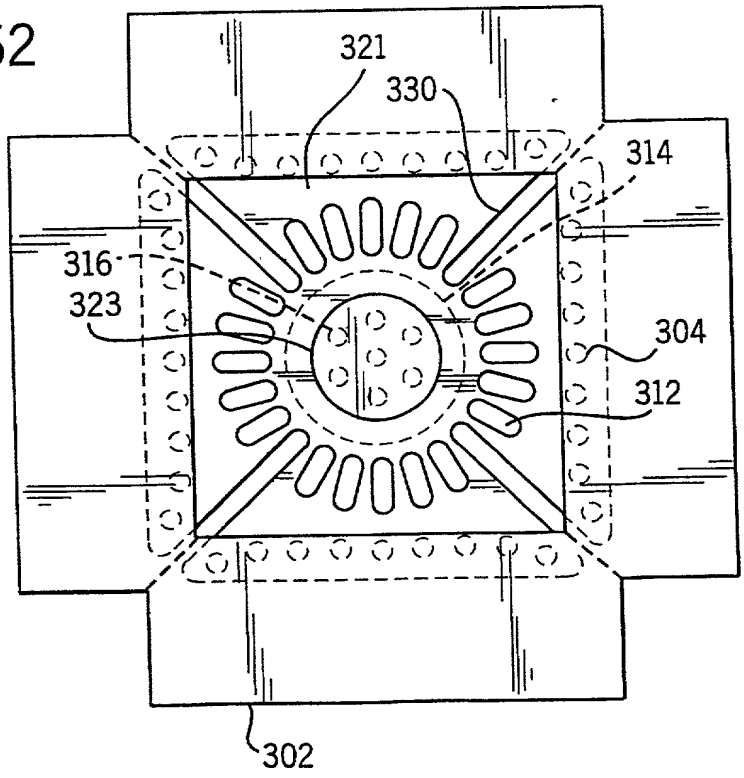


FIG. 63

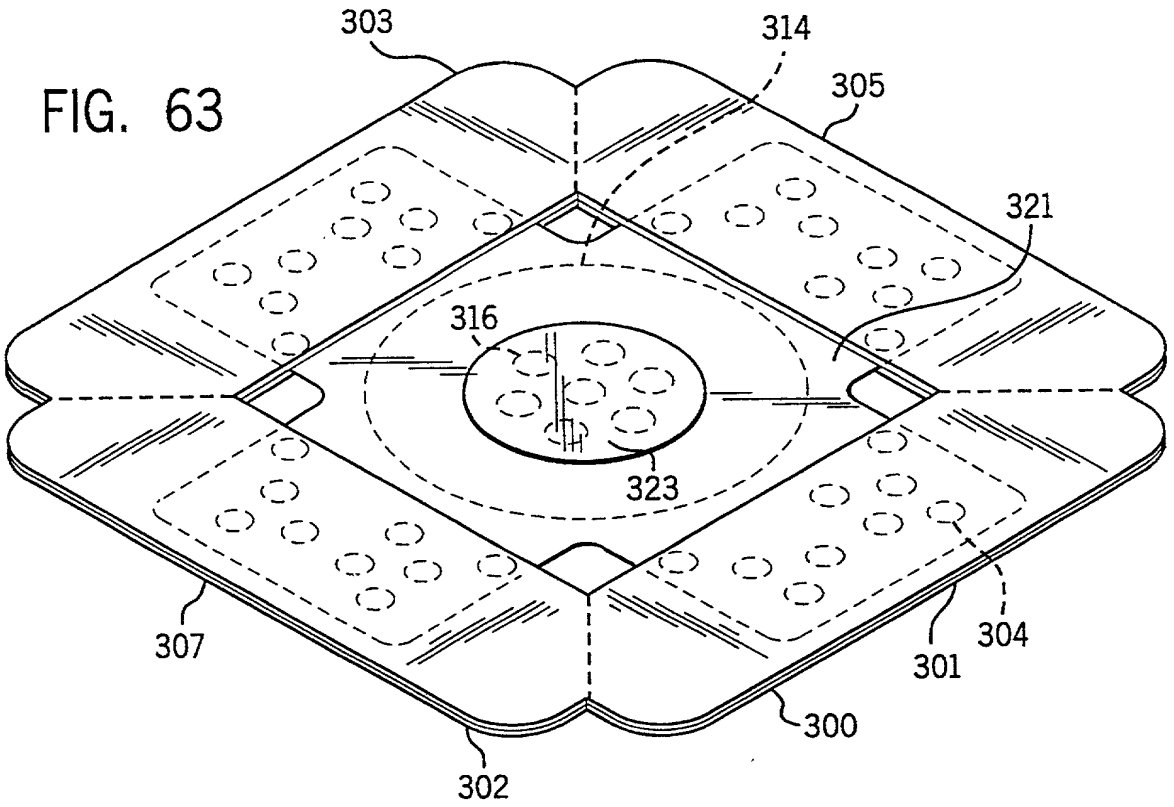

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FIG. 64

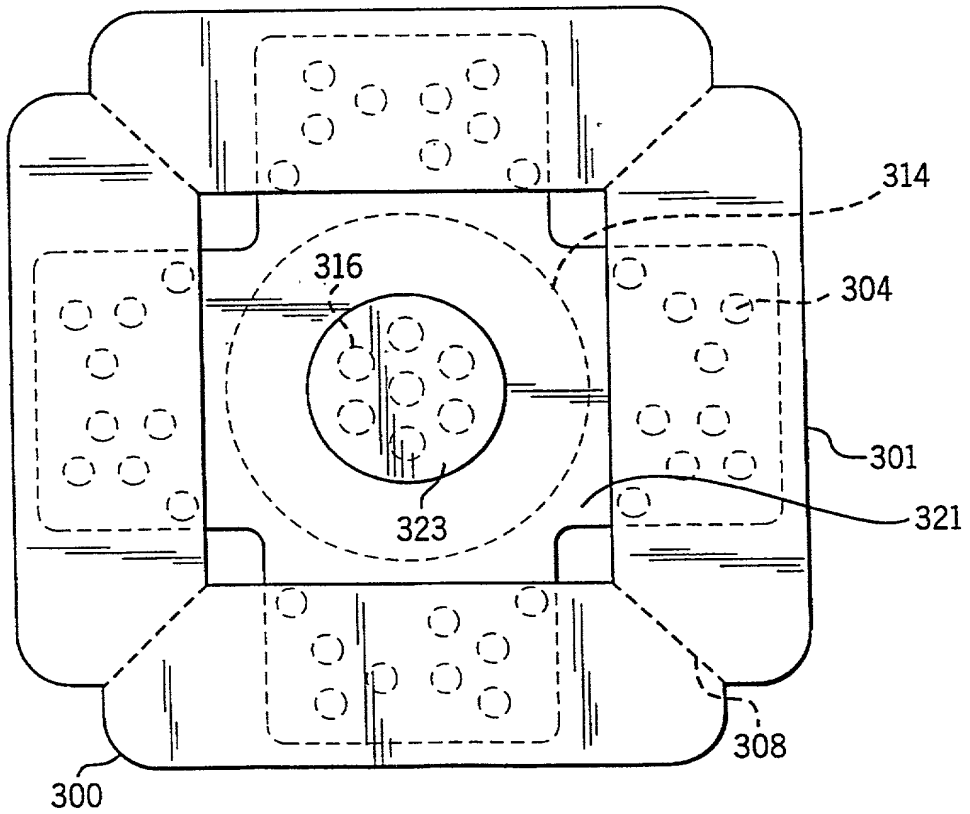
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FIG. 65

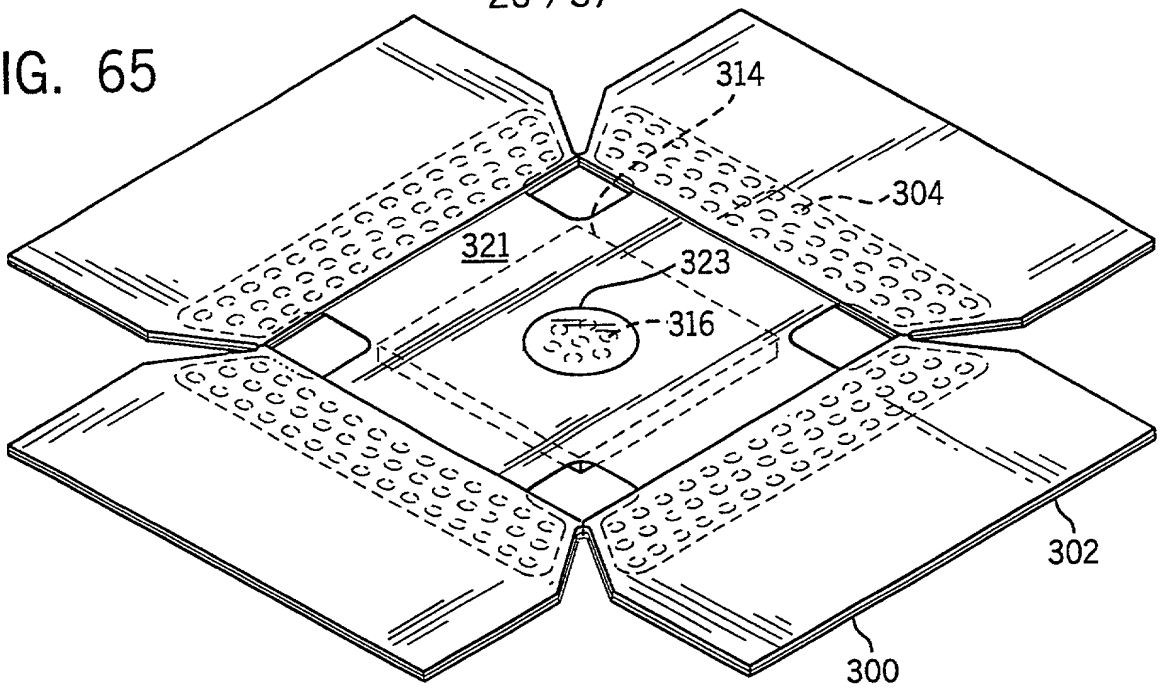

FIG. 66

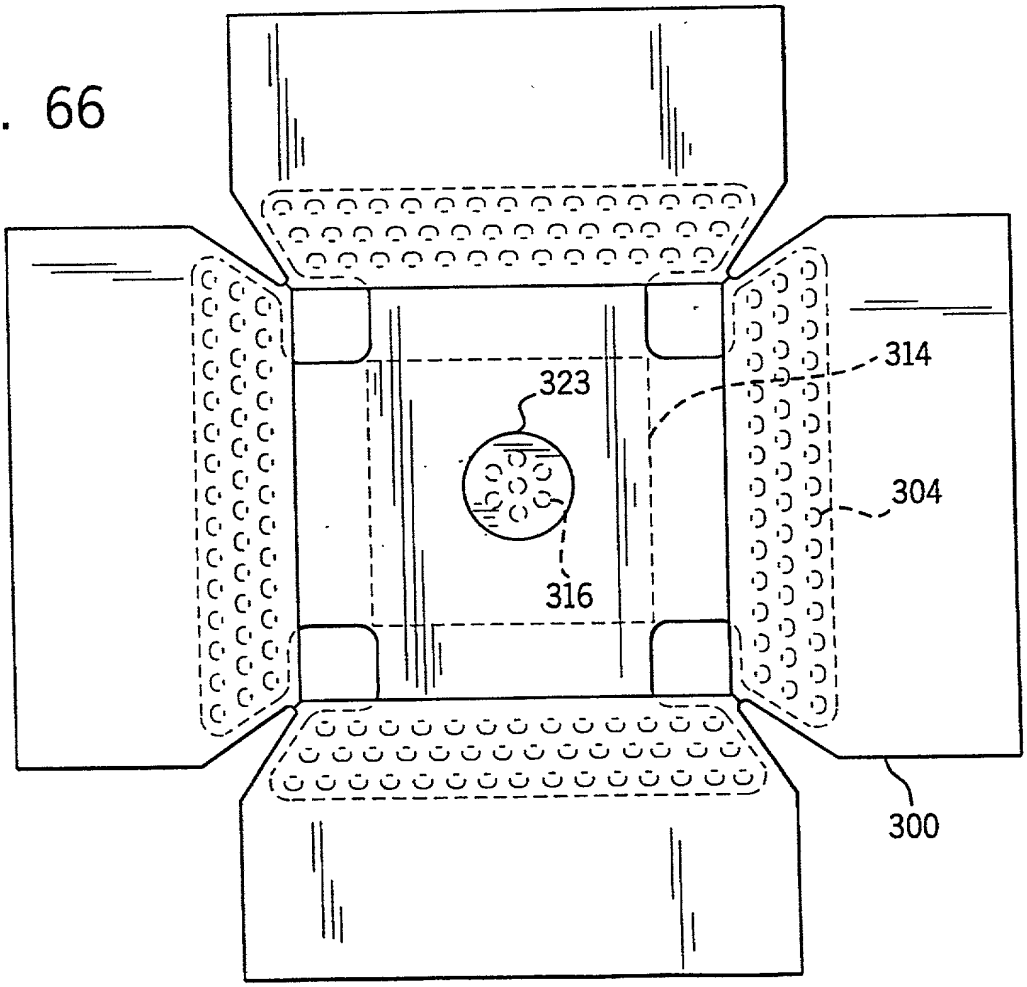

FIG. 67

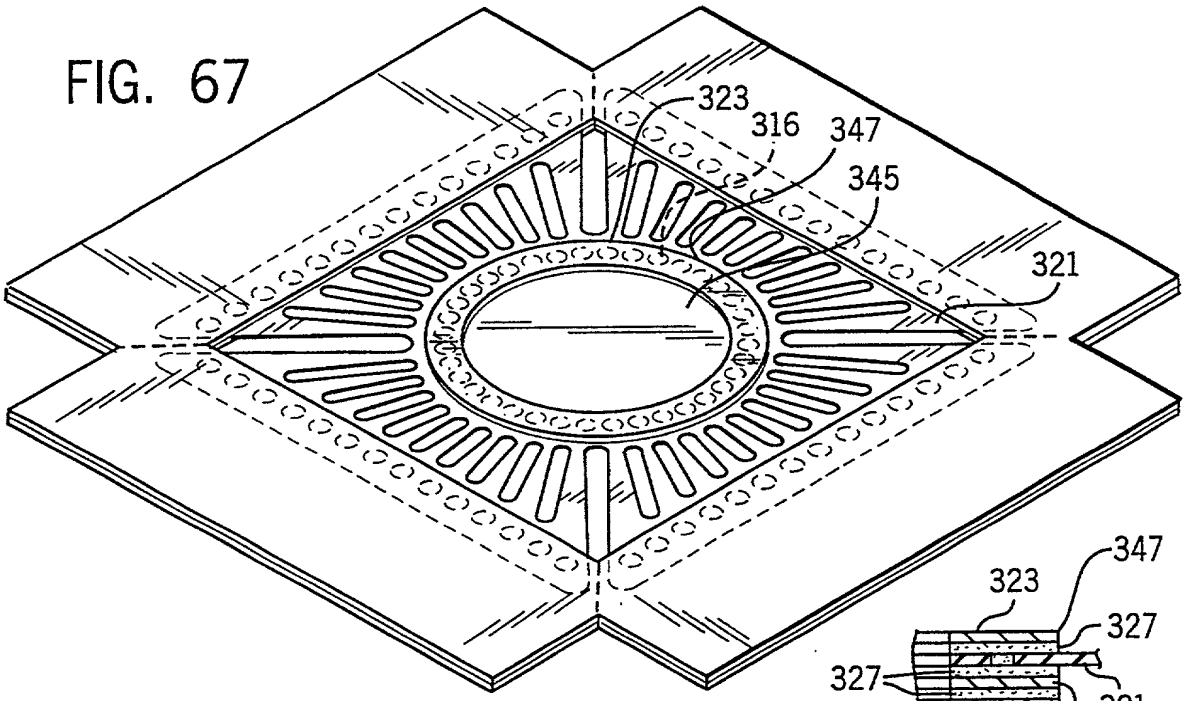

FIG. 68

FIG. 69

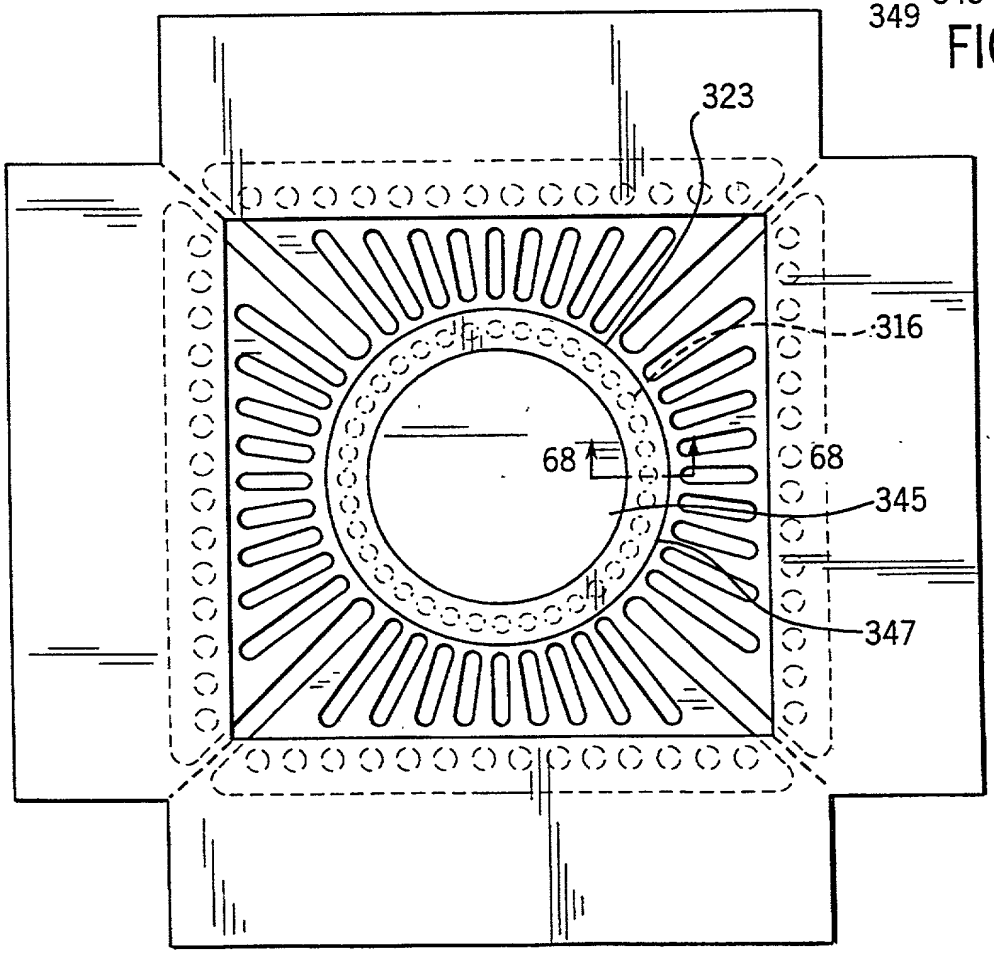

FIG. 70

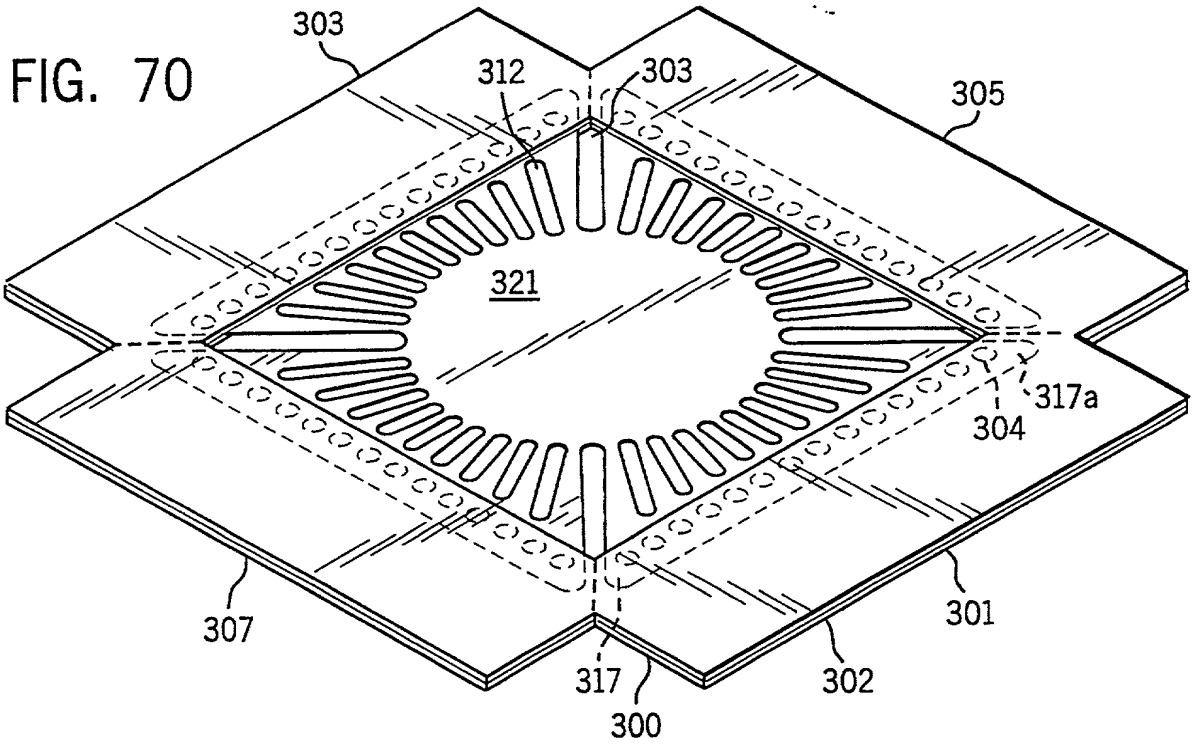
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FIG. 71

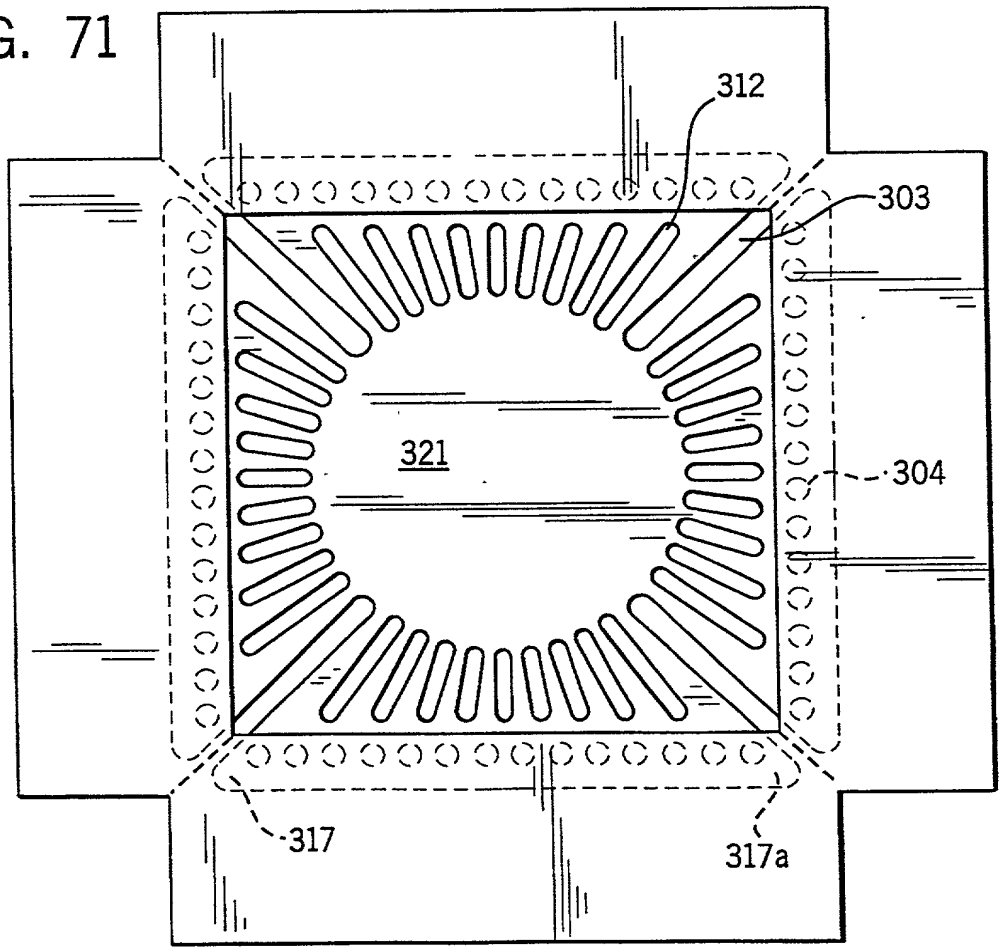
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FIG. 72

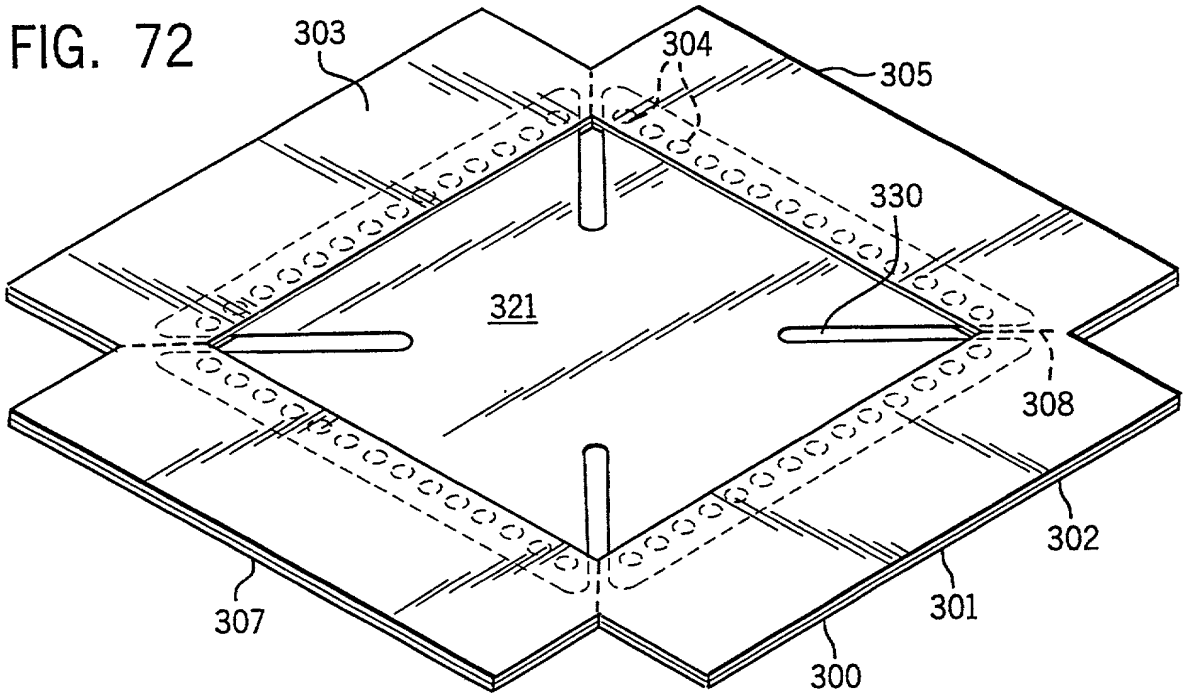

FIG. 73

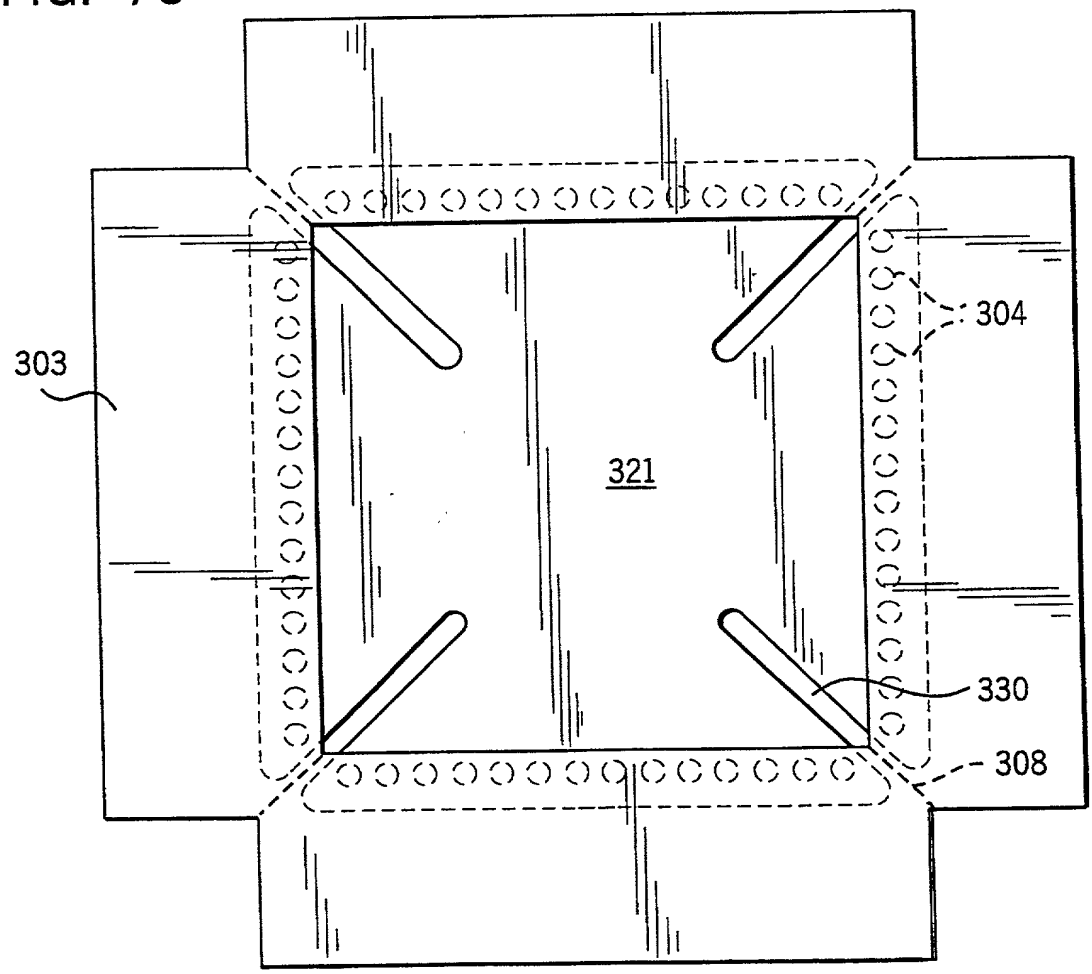

FIG. 74

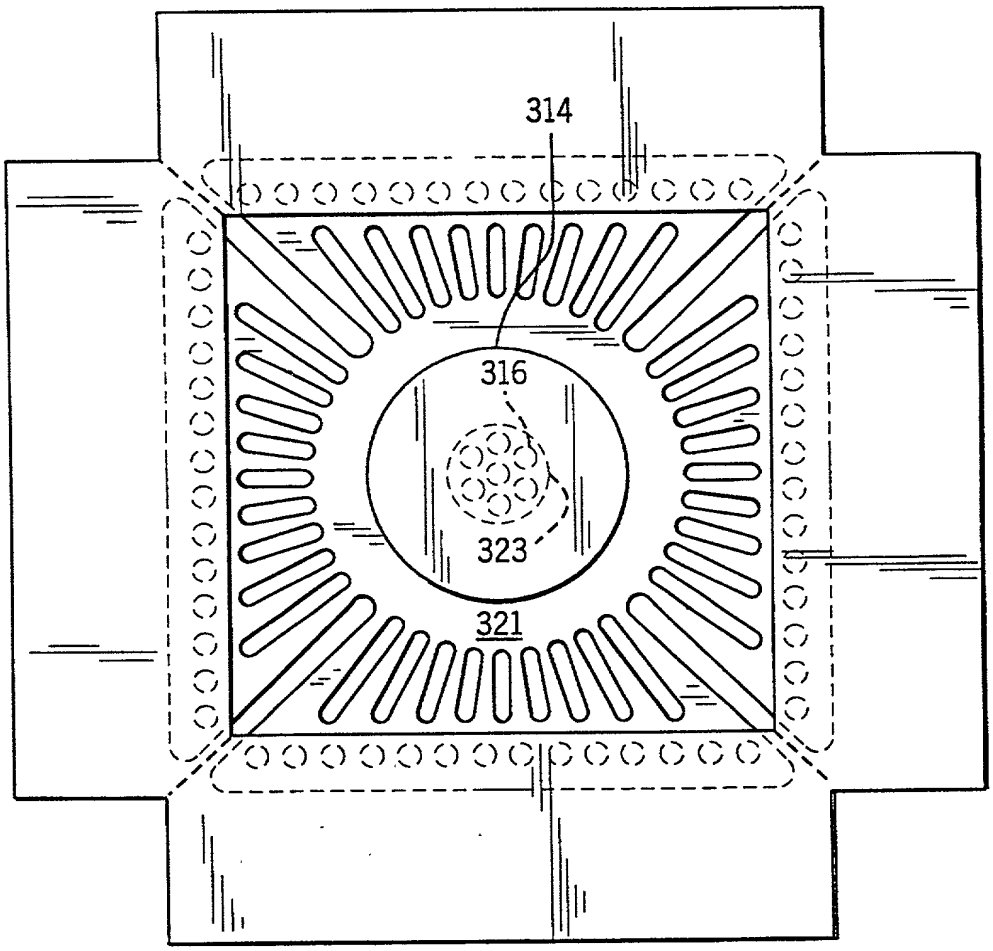

FIG. 75

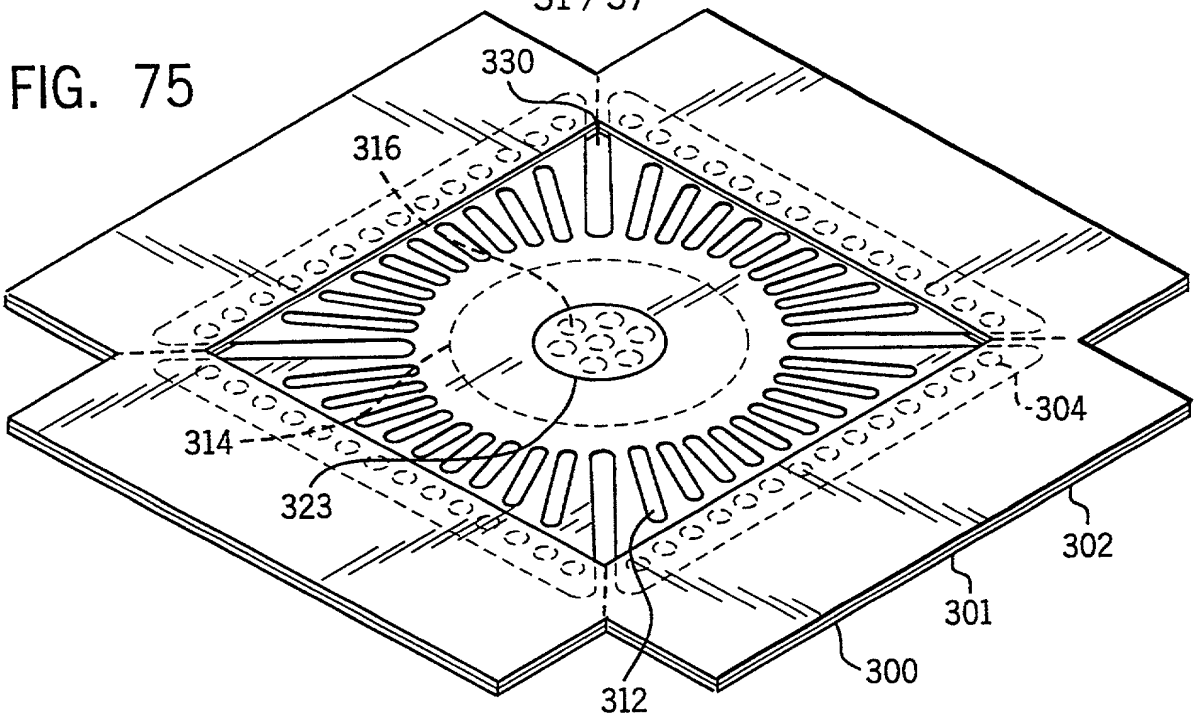

FIG. 76

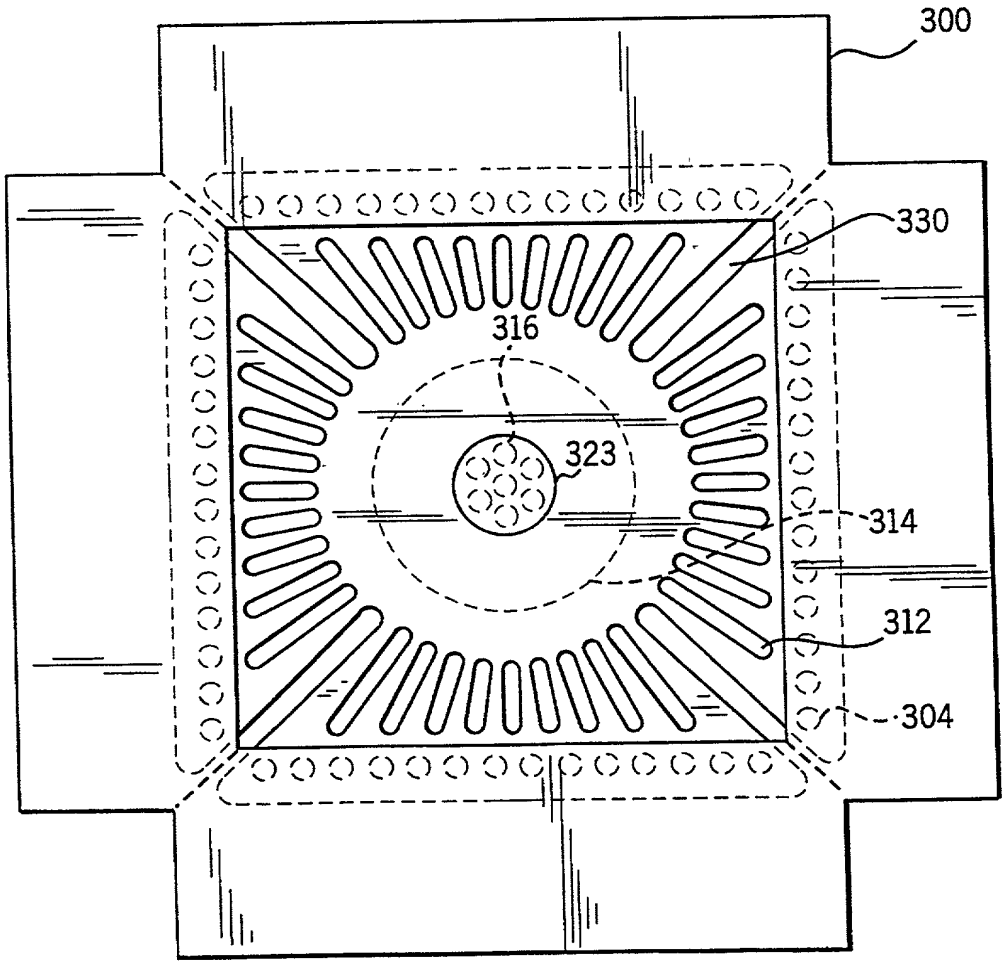

FIG. 77

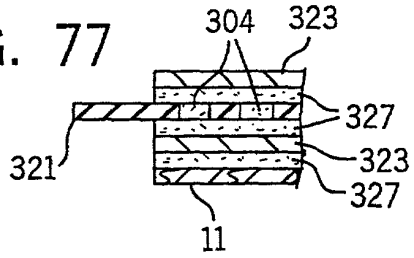

FIG. 78

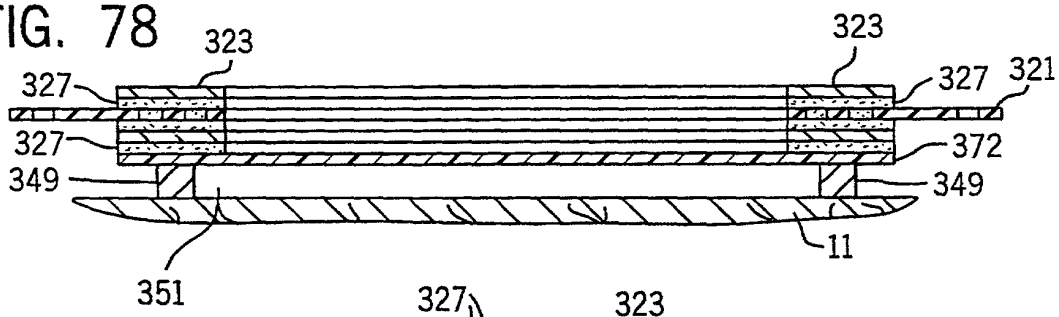

FIG. 79

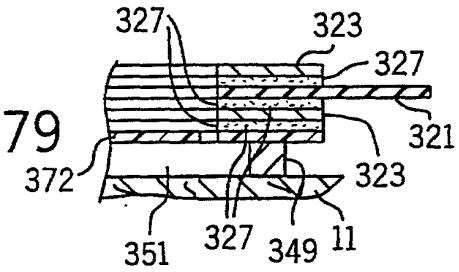

FIG. 80

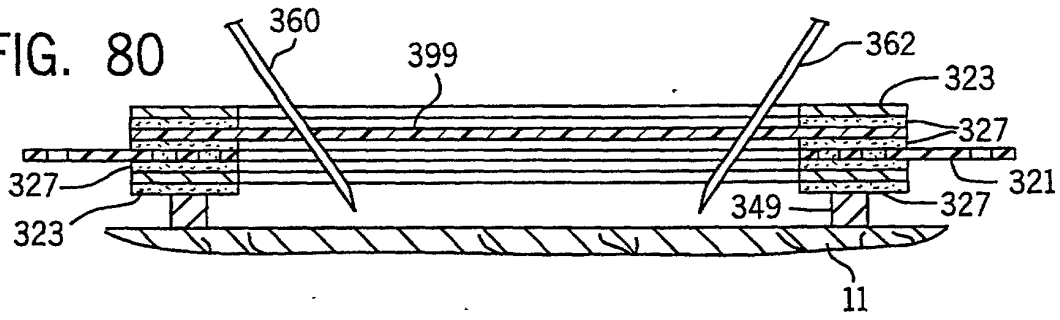

FIG. 82

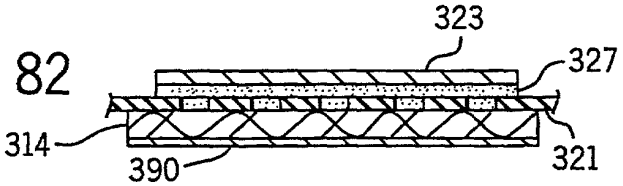

FIG. 81

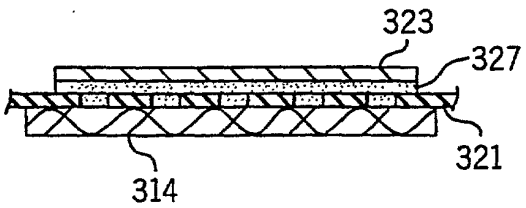

FIG. 83

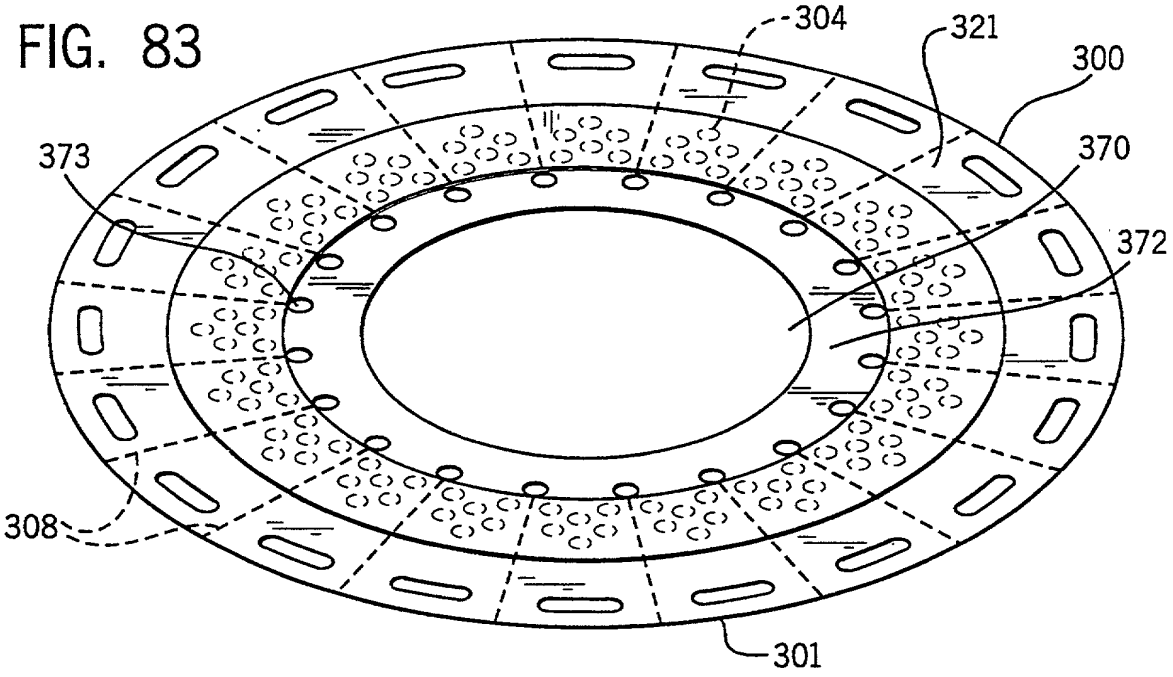
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FIG. 84

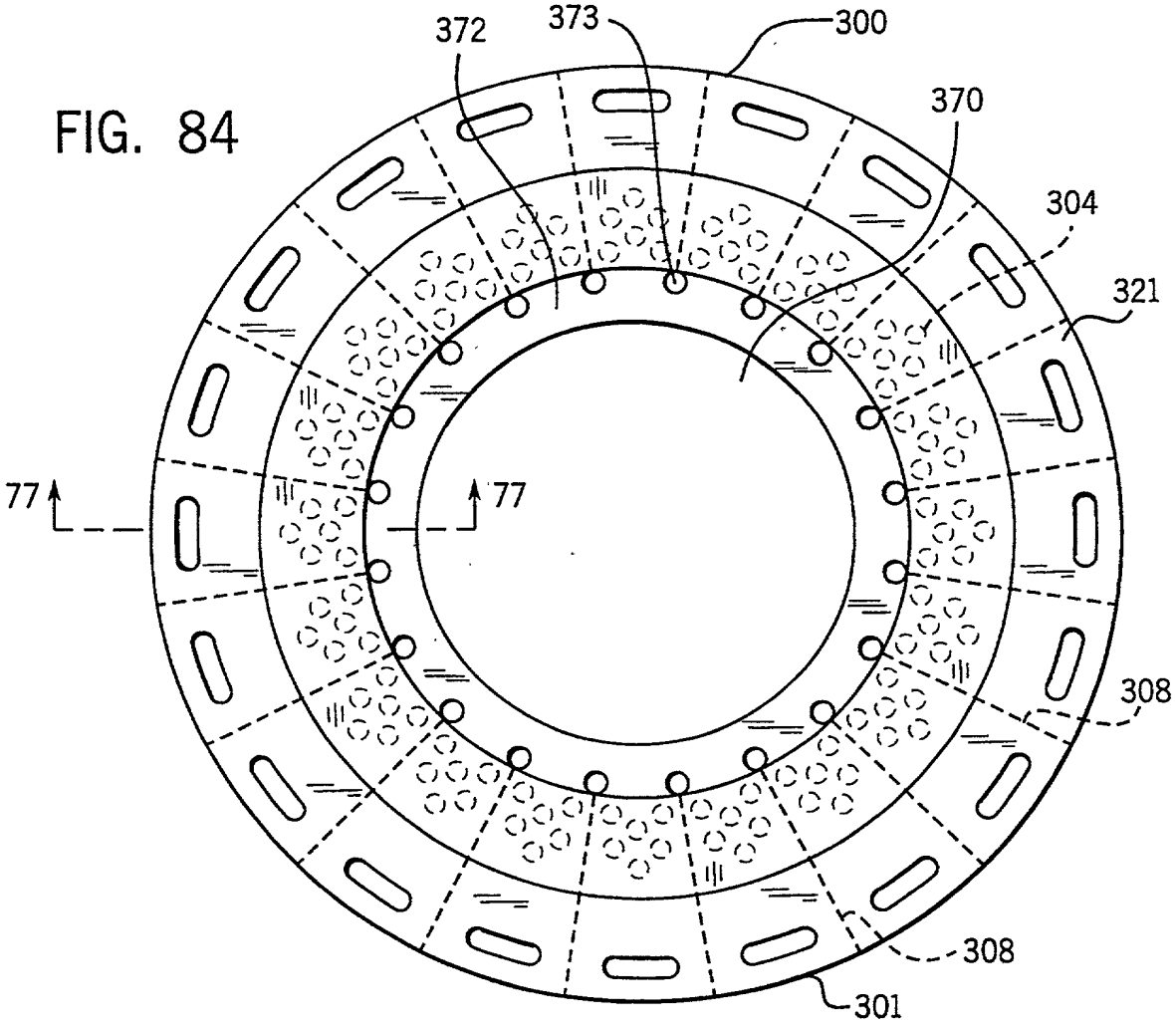
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FIG. 85

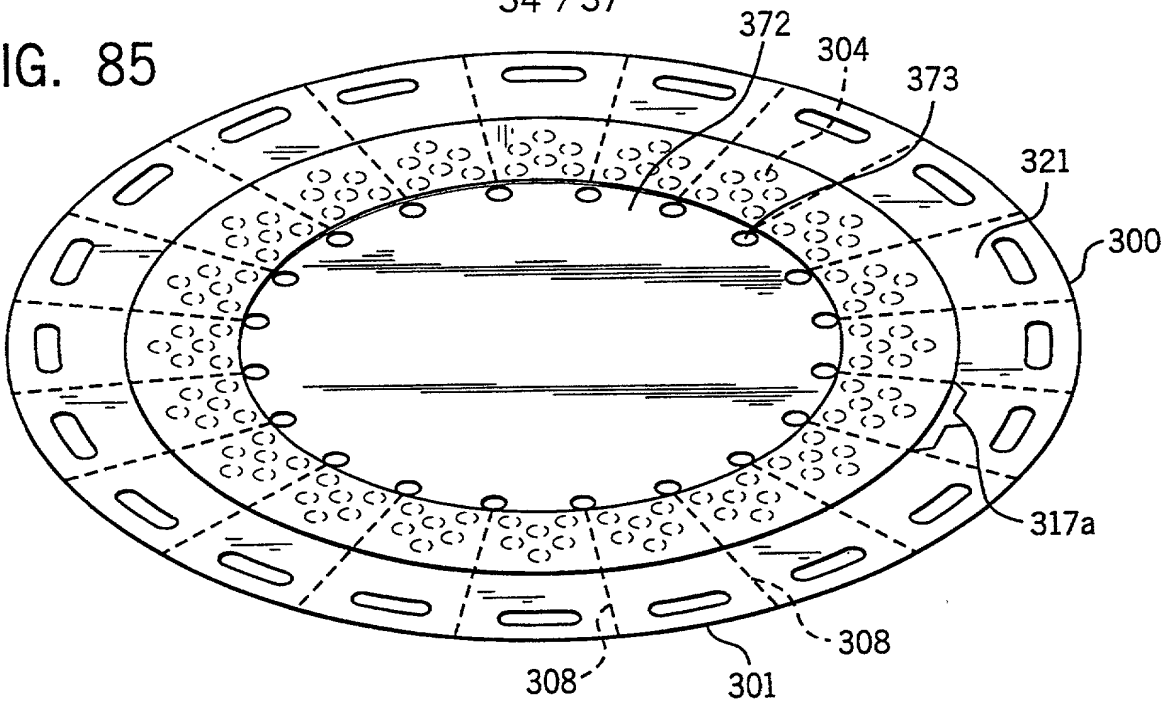
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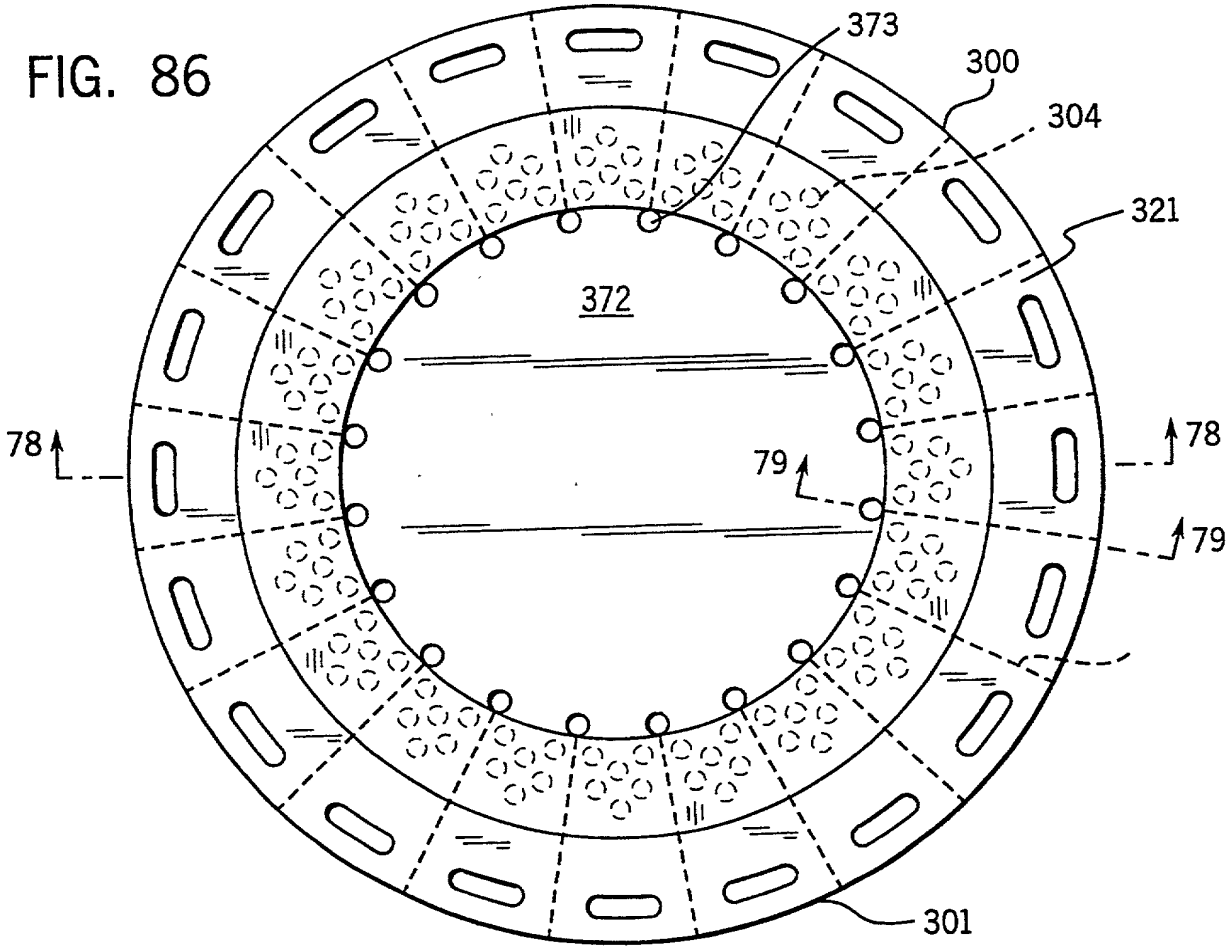
FIG. 86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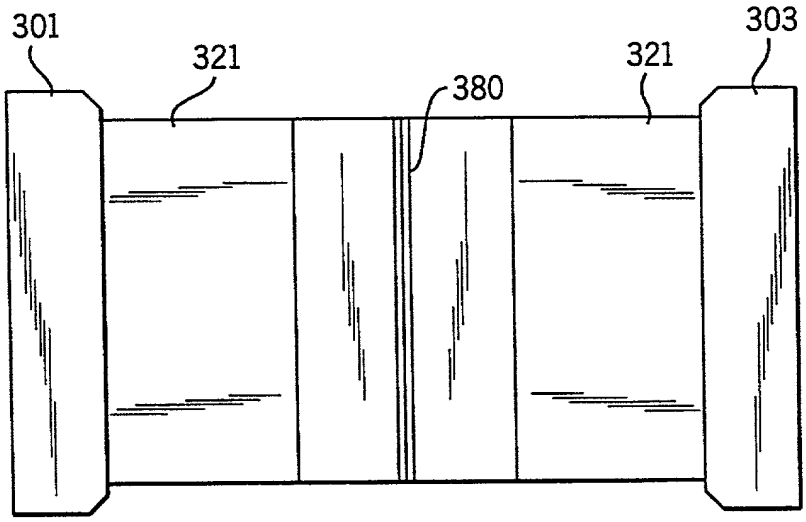

FIG. 87

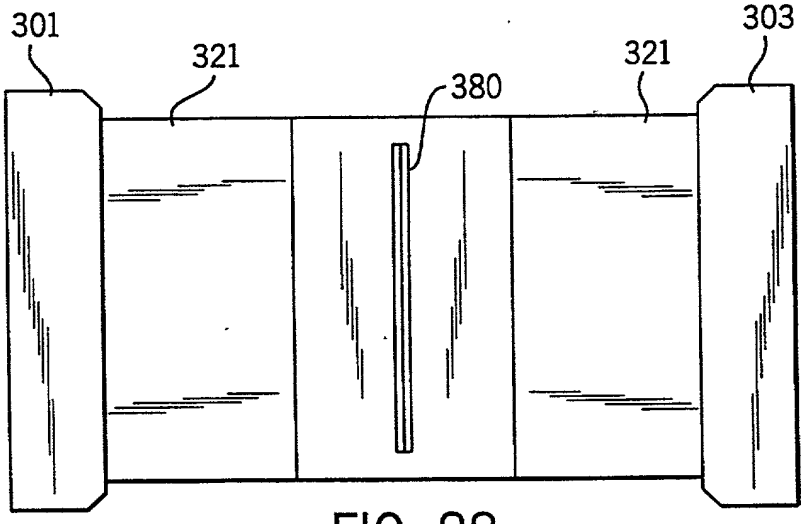

FIG. 88

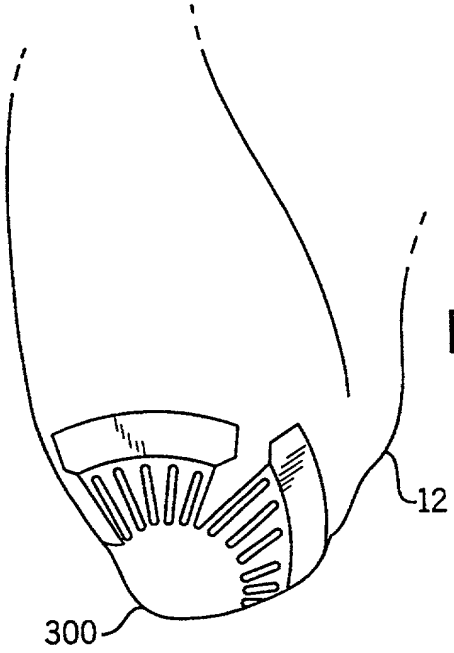

FIG. 89

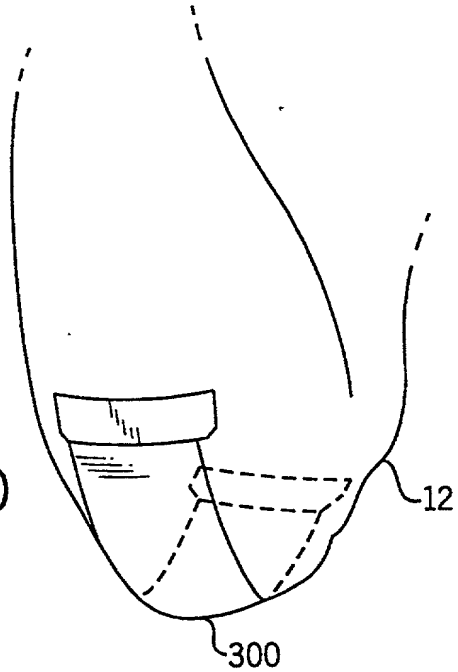

FIG. 90

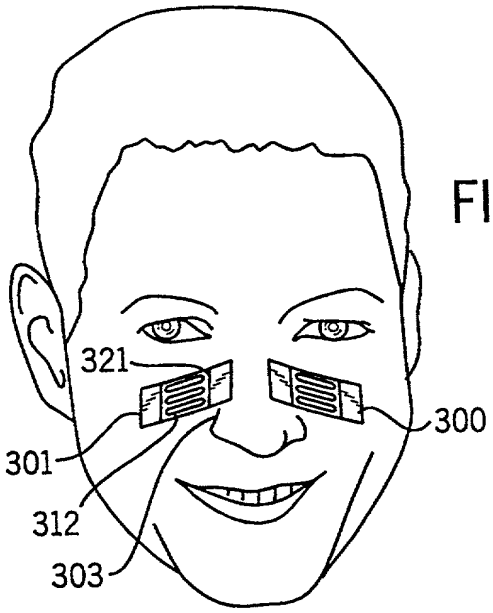

FIG. 91

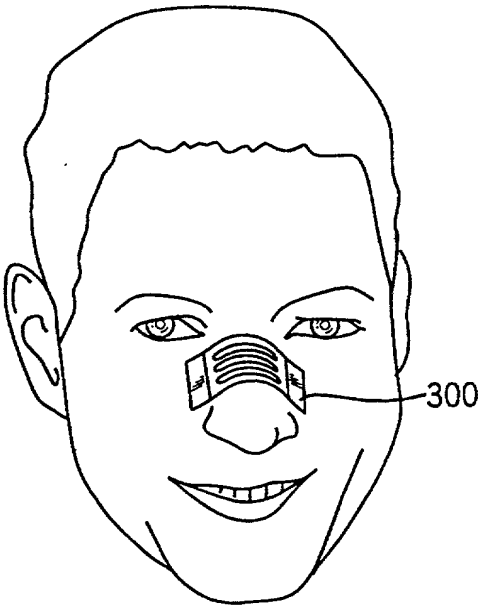

FIG. 92

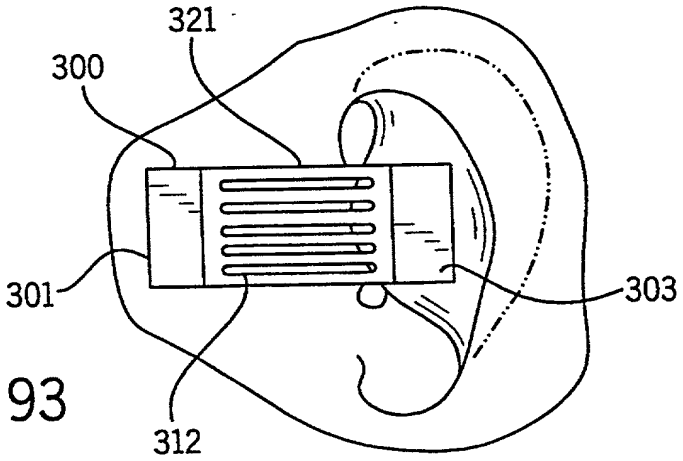

FIG. 93

Attorney's Docket No. 8115-12394A-PCT-US

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY (ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL, DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

TYPE OF DECLARATION

This declaration is of the following type: *(check one applicable item below)*

[ ] original

[ ] design

[ ] supplemental

NOTE: If the declaration is for an International Application being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application do not check next item; check appropriate one of last three items.

[x] national stage of PCT

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP.

[ ] divisional

[ ] continuation

[ ] continuation-in-part (CIP)

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

WARNING: If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TITLE OF INVENTION

Nasal Epidermal Lifting Mechanism

SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION

the specification of which: *(complete (a), (b) or (c))*

(a) [ ] is attached hereto.

(b) [x] was filed on 17 January 1997 as [x] Serial No. 09/180,572
or [ ] Express Mail No., as Serial No. not yet known _____
and was amended on _____(if applicable).

NOTE: Amendments filed after the original papers are deposited with the PTO which contain new matter are not accorded a filing date by being referred to in the declaration. Accordingly, the amendments involved are those filed with the application papers or, in the case of a supplemental declaration, are those amendments claiming matter not encompassed in the original statement of invention or claims. See 37 CFR 1.67.

(c) [x] was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/US 97/00868 filed on 17 January 1997 and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ *(if any).*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56

(also check the following item, if desired)

[ ] In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure statement in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98.

PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. § 119)

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

(d) [X] no such applications have been filed.

(e) [ ] such applications have been filed as follows.

NOTE: Where item (c) is entered above and the International Application which designated the U.S. itself claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

A. PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS (6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS APPLICATION AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. S 119

COUNTRY (OR INDICATE IF PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
			[ ] YES NO [ ]
			[ ] YES NO [ ]
			[ ] YES NO [ ]
			[ ] YES NO [ ]
			[ ] YES NO [ ]

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS (6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

_____

_____

_____

NOTE: If the application filed more than 12 months from the filing date of this application is a PCT filing forming the basis for this application entering the United States as (1) the national stage, or (2) a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part, then also complete ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CIP APPLICATION for benefit of the prior U.S. or PCT application(s) under 35 U.S.C. S 120.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. *(List name and registration number)*

Daniel D. Ryan (29,243)
Joseph A. Kromholz (34,204)
John M. Manion (38,957)

Arnold J. Ericsen (16,879)
Allan O. Maki (20,623)

(check the following item, if applicable)

[ ] Attached as part of this declaration and power of attorney is the authorization of the above-named attorney(s) to accept and follow instructions from my representative(s).

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.
Post Office Box 26618
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226-0618

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

Joseph A. Kromholz
PHONE CALLS
(262) 797 - 6700

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE

NOTE: Carefully indicate the family (or last) name as it should appear on the filing receipt and all other documents.

Full name of sole or first inventor

Wallace (GIVEN NAME) J. (MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME) Beaudry (FAMILY (OR LAST) NAME)

Inventor's signature Wallace J Beaudry

Date 1-7-00 Country of Citizenship USA

Residence N9330 County Road H, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

Post Office Address P.O. Box 291, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

CHECK PROPER BOX(ES) FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADD. PAGE(S) WHICH FORM A PART OF THIS DECLARATION

[ ] Signature for sixth and subsequent joint inventors. Number of pages added _____

* * *

[ ] Signature by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative for deceased or incapacitated inventor. Number of pages added _____

* * *

[ ] Signature for inventor who refuses to sign or cannot be reached by person authorized under 37 CFR 1.47. Number of pages added _____

* * *

[ ] Added pages to combined declaration and power of attorney for divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part (CIP) application.

[ ] Number of pages added _____

* * *

[ ] Authorization of attorney(s) to accept and follow instructions from representative

* * *

(If no further pages form a part of this declaration then end this declaration with this page and check the following item:)

[x] This declaration ends with this page

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Wallace J. Beaudry

Title: Nasal Epidermal Lifting Mechanism

Atty. Docket No.: 8115-12394A-PCT US DIV2

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A

Dated: 14 July 2000

Re: Parent Application
Serial No.: 09/180,572
Filing Date: 17 January 1997

DESIGNATION OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Attorney:
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Phone (262) 797-6700

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **Express Mail** in an envelope addressed to the **Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231** on 14 July 2000.

By: Julie A. Wolf
Julie A. Wolf
Dated: 14 July 2000

Express Mail #: EL 574874733 US

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

FEES

You are hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 06-2360 any fees required by this office action.

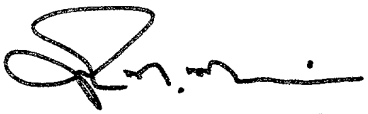
AMENDMENTS

Please amend the enclosed specification by cancelling claims 1 through 25, inclusive, and claims 55 through 103, inclusive.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the application, with claims 26 - 54, be sent on for examination.

Respectfully Submitted,
Inventor: Wallace J. Beaudry
By RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C., Attorneys for Applicant

By 

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